GHOST IN THE SHELL
HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR
1.5

攻殻機動隊



DARK HORSE MANGA™ | $2.99 US | ISSUE 1 OF 8

SHIROW MASAMUNE

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GHOST IN THE SHELL
HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR
攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 1 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

この物語に登場する様々な設定や解説や概念は全て妄想の産物であり、現実とは無関係の娯楽物です。服用を誤る事無くお楽しみ頂ければ幸いです。
またデッチ上げやギミックの「誤用」による二次被害には当方責任を負いかねます点を御了承願います。

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

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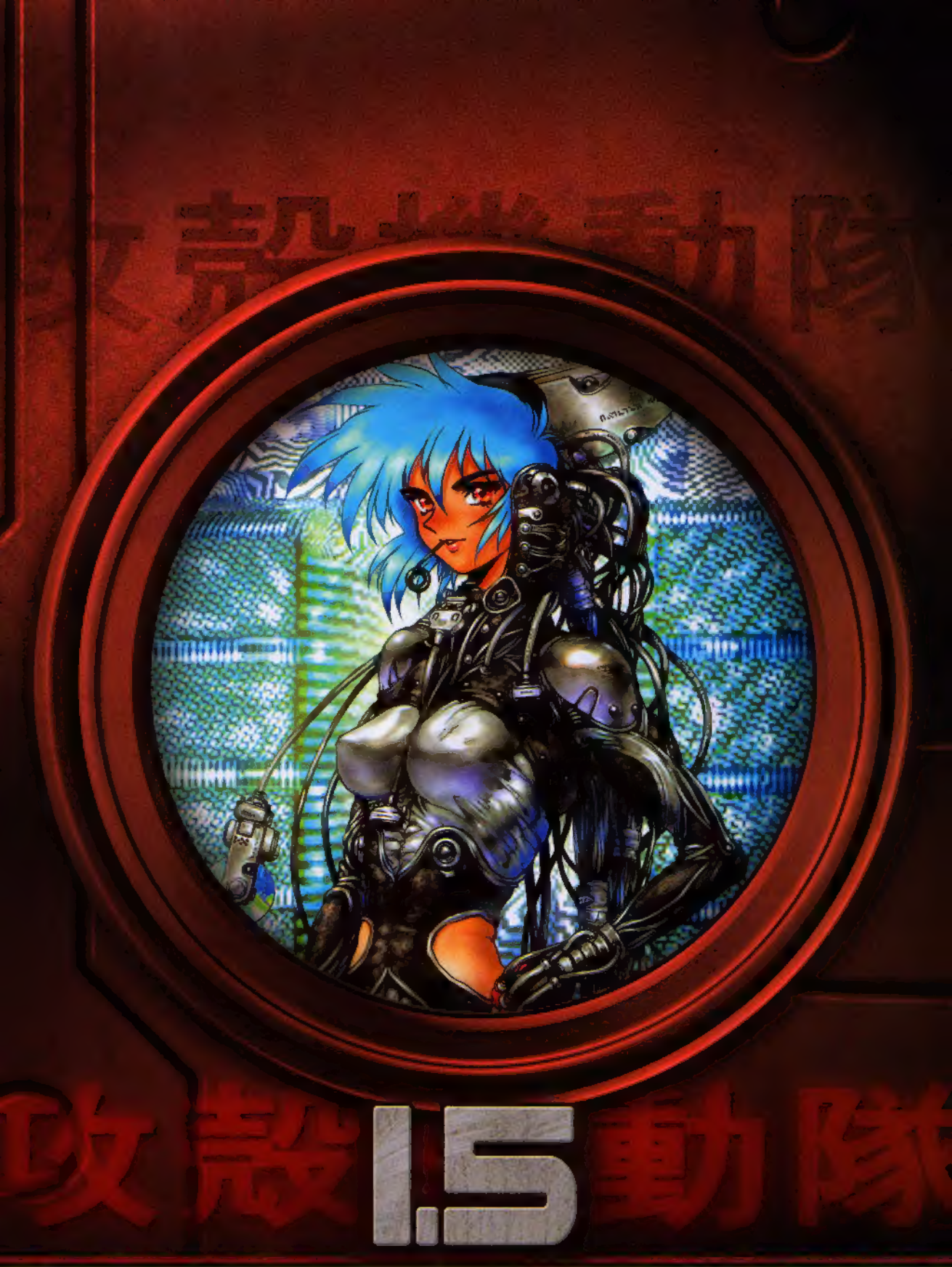
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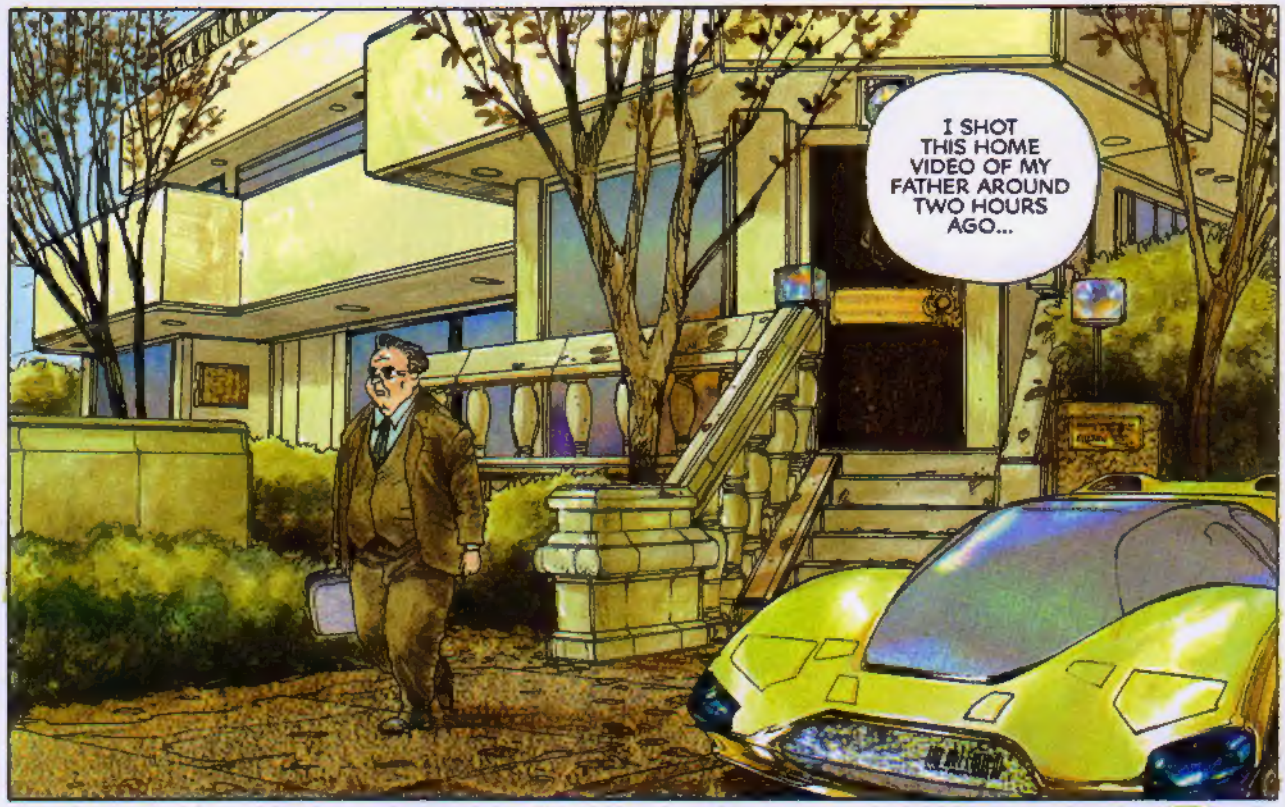
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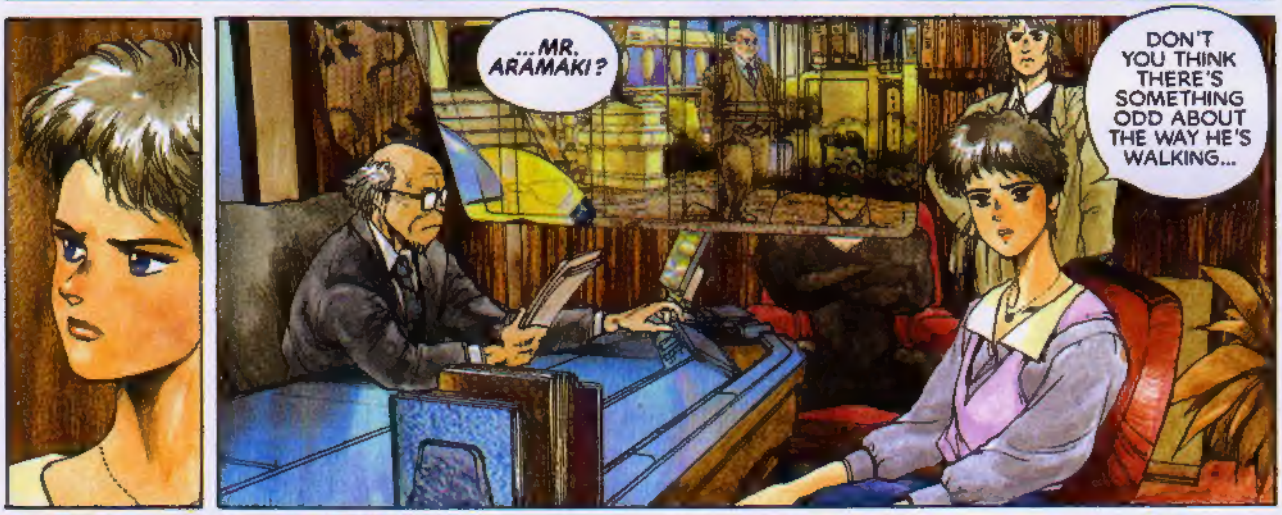


FAT CAT Part 1



NOW LOADING . . .








I DIDN'T NOTICE, BUT IT'S ONE OF THOSE FLY-CATCHER ROBOTS--A 'RILIS'--THAT WE RELEASE IN OUR HORSE STABLES...YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. ARAMAKI, THAT *IS* STRANGE...

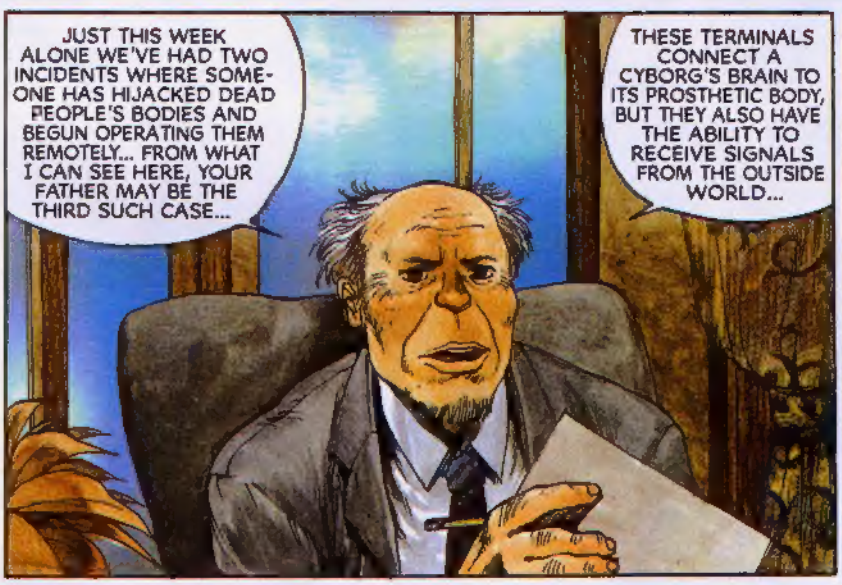


Rilis: full name is *evarcha rabrilis*. *Evarcha* comes from Greek and means "good rule". *Fabrilis* is latin for "workmanlike," etc. For a good reference book, see *Kumo No Gakumei To Wamei* ("Scientific and Japanese Names for Spiders"), published by the University of Kyushu Press.


STOP

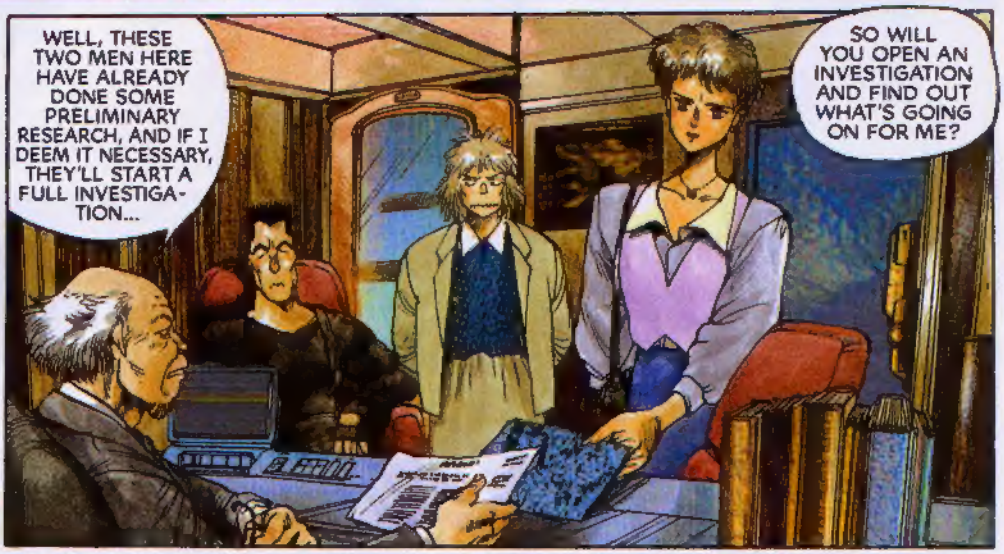

WHAT I MEAN IS THAT...
KNOCK IT OFF, AZUMA...
ME? RUDE? DON'T FORGET TO SMILE WHEN YOU SAY THAT...OTHERWISE THAT GOOD PERFUME'LL ALL GO TO WASTE...
I BEG YOUR PARDON? AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE RUDE?
AN' THE ODOR WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS THE STENCH OF DEATH... YA CAN'T HIDE IT!!
...YOU USE DEODORANTS TO COVER UP BAD ODORS, RIGHT? BUT YOU CAN'T COVER THEM UP COMPLETELY...
GIVEN THAT YOU'RE AN OLD FRIEND OF MY FATHER, MR. ARAMAKI, AND PROBABLY EVEN KNOW HIM BETTER THAN I DO, I CAME HERE HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO HELP ME...
WELL, IT'S TOO BAD...
Heh heh...
Um, AZUMA'S NOT JOKING, MISS... TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
BUT I SEE THAT I WAS WRONG! SO I'M LEAVING!!



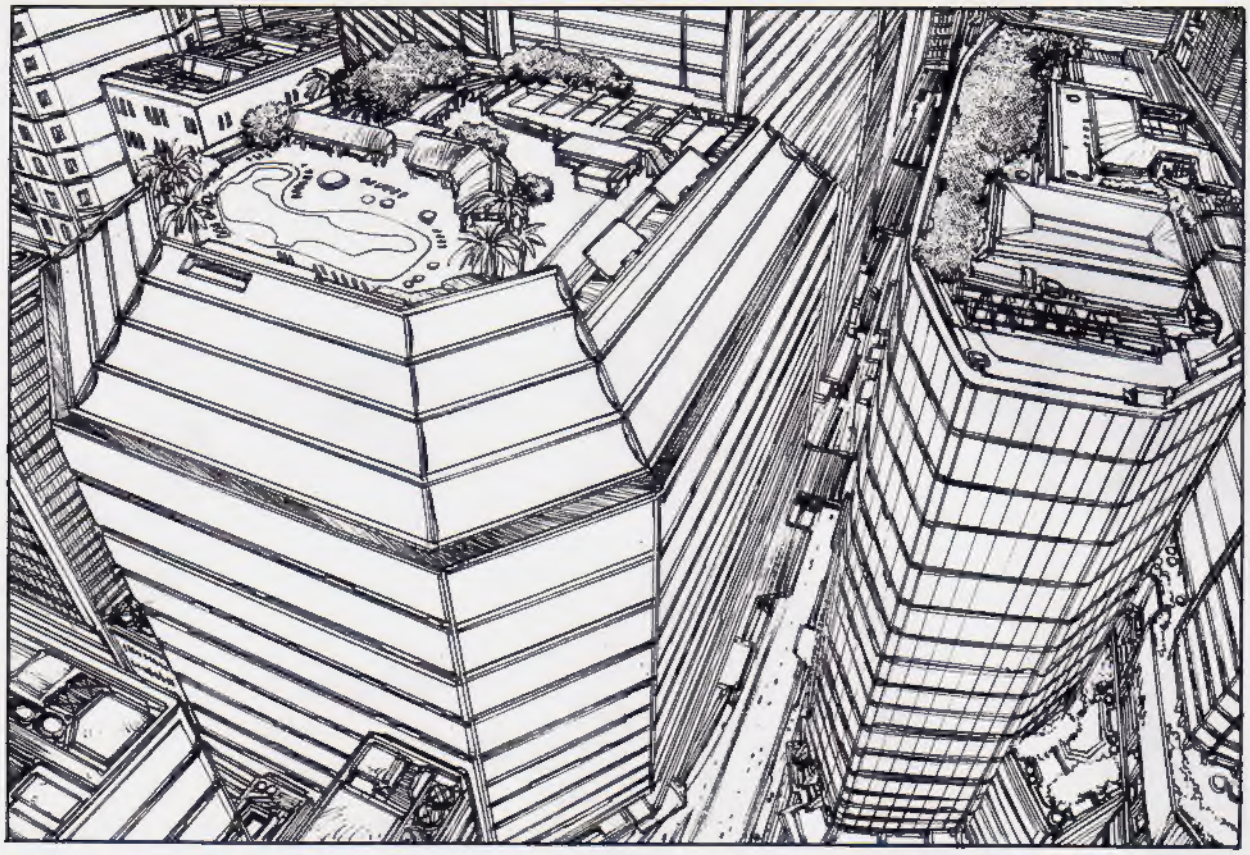

JUST THIS WEEK ALONE WE'VE HAD TWO INCIDENTS WHERE SOMEONE HAS HIJACKED DEAD PEOPLE'S BODIES AND BEGUN OPERATING THEM REMOTELY... FROM WHAT I CAN SEE HERE, YOUR FATHER MAY BE THE THIRD SUCH CASE...
THESE TERMINALS CONNECT A CYBORG'S BRAIN TO ITS PROSTHETIC BODY, BUT THEY ALSO HAVE THE ABILITY TO RECEIVE SIGNALS FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD...



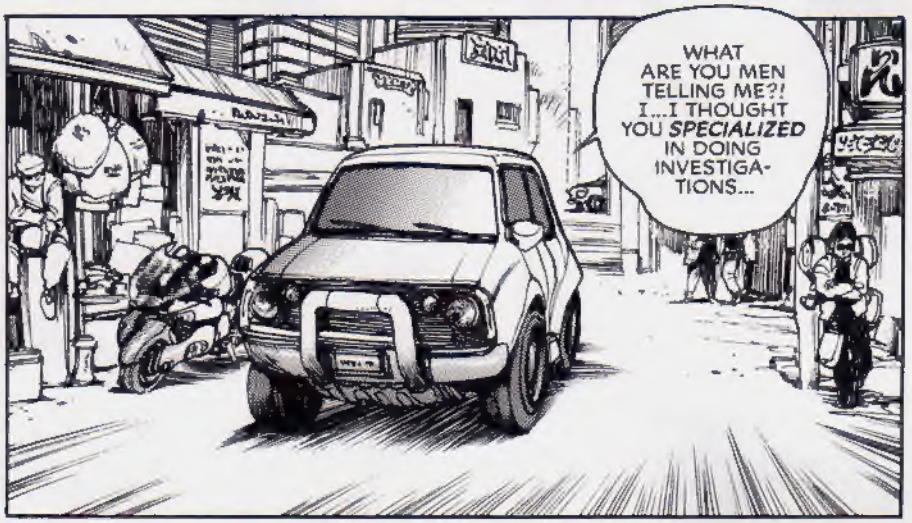


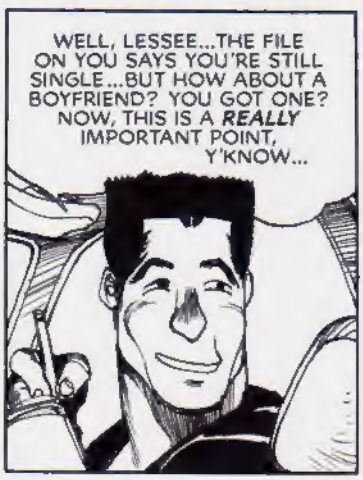

WELL, THESE TWO MEN HERE HAVE ALREADY DONE SOME PRELIMINARY RESEARCH, AND IF I DEEM IT NECESSARY, THEY'LL START A FULL INVESTIGATION...
SO WILL YOU OPEN AN INVESTIGATION AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON FOR ME?

Bioactive: In this case, the micromachines enter an organism and interact with it naturally, actually fusing and functioning with it. Inactive materials, such as titanium or ceramics, do not fuse with biological material and are essentially treated by the body as foreign matter.



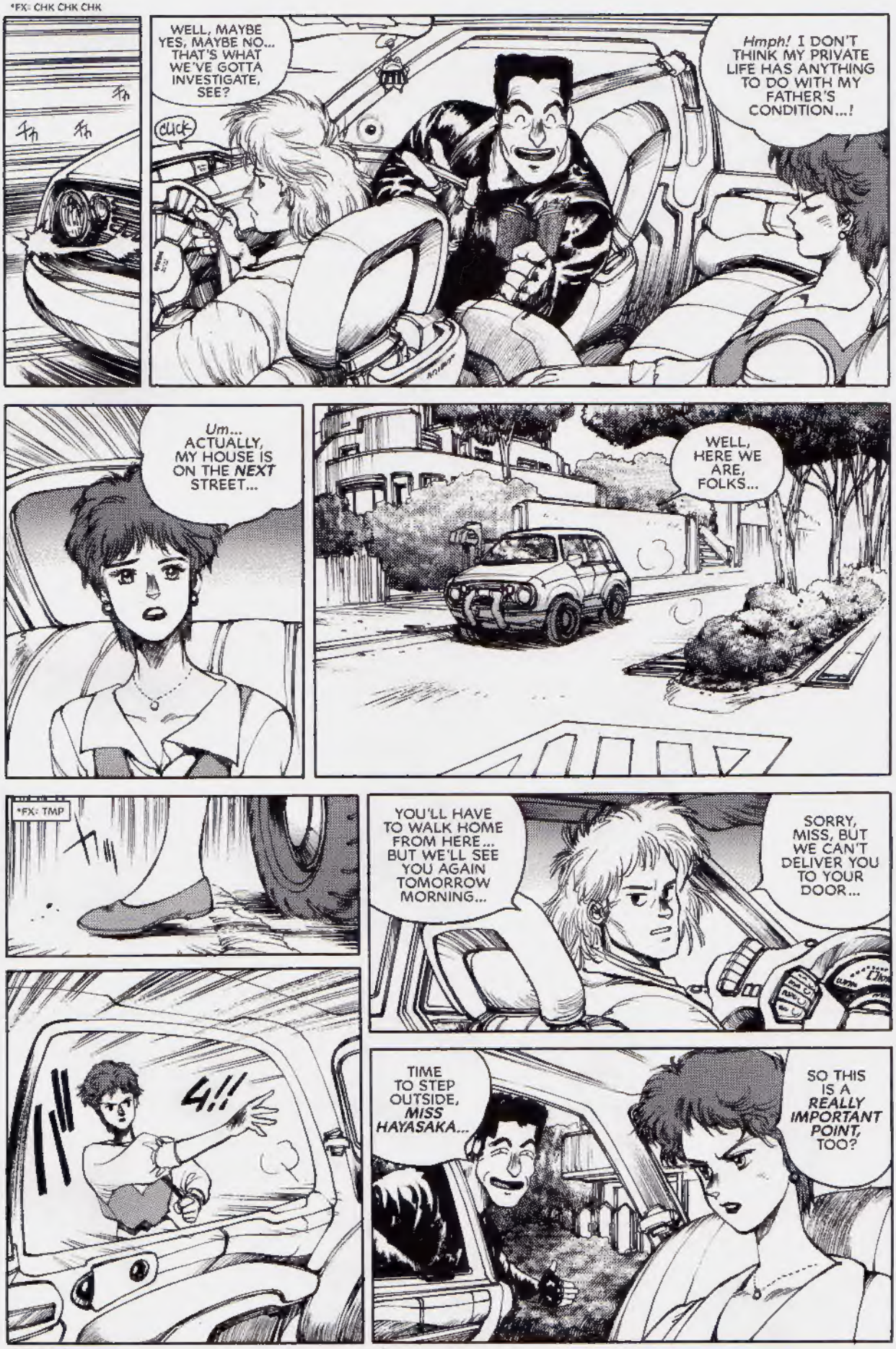

ILLEGAL WASTE DISPOSAL EXPERT.
SO, *TOGUSA*, MY MAN, WHAT DO YOU USUALLY PUT DOWN FOR YOUR JOB DESCRIPTION?


WHAT ARE YOU MEN TELLING ME?! I...I THOUGHT YOU *SPECIALIZED* IN DOING INVESTIGATIONS...


WELL, LESSEE...THE FILE ON YOU SAYS YOU'RE STILL SINGLE...BUT HOW ABOUT A BOYFRIEND? YOU GOT ONE? NOW, THIS IS A *REALLY* IMPORTANT POINT, Y'KNOW...

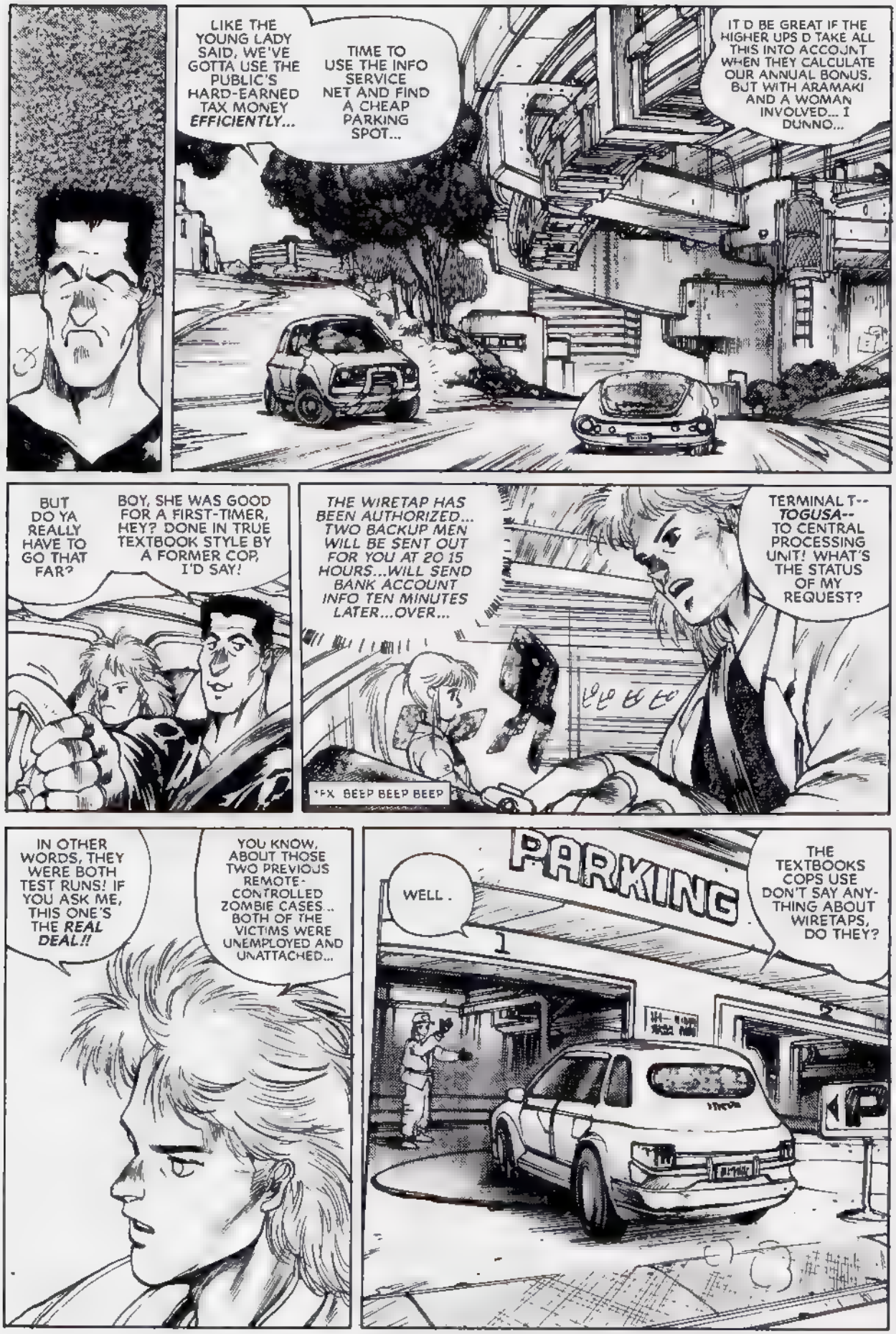

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?


WELL, WE KNOW HE WAS RICH AND LIKED POLITICS, RIGHT? ANYTHING *ELSE* YOU WANT TO TELL US?
B...BUT DON'T YOU WANT TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MY FATHER?


*FX: CHK CHK CHK
WELL, MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO... THAT'S WHAT WE'VE GOTTA INVESTIGATE, SEE?
CLICK
Hmph! I DON'T THINK MY PRIVATE LIFE HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY FATHER'S CONDITION...!
Um... ACTUALLY, MY HOUSE IS ON THE NEXT STREET...
WELL, HERE WE ARE, FOLKS...
*FX: TMP
YOU'LL HAVE TO WALK HOME FROM HERE... BUT WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING...
SORRY, MISS, BUT WE CAN'T DELIVER YOU TO YOUR DOOR...
4!!
TIME TO STEP OUTSIDE, MISS HAYASAKA...
SO THIS IS A REALLY IMPORTANT POINT, TOO?
*FX: SLAM


BUT YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND THAT HE'S DEAD, AND INSTEAD OF RUNNING A REAL INVESTIGATION, YOU'RE JUST PLAYING GAMES BY ASKING ME RUDE QUESTIONS . . . WHAT A WASTE OF TAX-PAYERS MONEY YOU BOTH ARE!!
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT THIS HAS BEEN. MY FATHER ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT IF ANYTHING EVER HAPPENED TO HIM, I SHOULD CONTACT *SECTION 9* FOR HELP!
Heh heh...
Hmph..
AN' IF YOUR OLD MAN'S NOT DEAD, THEN SOMEBODY AWFULLY CLOSE TO HIM IS, 'CUZ I SMELLED *ROTTING FLESH!*
HEY, LISTEN! I CAN OUT-SMELL A *DRUG DOG!*
ARAMAKI BELIEVES IN YOUR OVER-CONFIDENCE, PAL... THAT'S WHY HE ASSIGNED THE TWO OF US TO THIS CASE... SO THERE, WE'RE SQUARE, *hah?*
SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET TO ACT SO RIGHTEOUS?
NOW, NOW, AZUMA... PISSING OFF THE YOUNG LADY'S NOT GONNA HELP...

Drug Dogs: specially trained police dogs capable of sniffing out a variety of drugs for their handlers. Drug dogs are not art objects made in the shape of dogs, then stuffed with drugs and used for smuggling. Nor are they dogs that are stoned silly from doing too many drugs...


LIKE THE YOUNG LADY SAID, WE'VE GOTTA USE THE PUBLIC'S HARD-EARNED TAX MONEY *EFFICIENTLY*...
TIME TO USE THE INFO SERVICE NET AND FIND A CHEAP PARKING SPOT...
IT'D BE GREAT IF THE HIGHER UPS'D TAKE ALL THIS INTO ACCOUNT WHEN THEY CALCULATE OUR ANNUAL BONUS. BUT WITH ARAMAKI AND A WOMAN INVOLVED... I DUNNO...
BUT DO YA REALLY HAVE TO GO THAT FAR?
BOY, SHE WAS GOOD FOR A FIRST-TIMER, HEY? DONE IN TRUE TEXTBOOK STYLE BY A FORMER COP, I'D SAY!
THE WIRETAP HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED... TWO BACKUP MEN WILL BE SENT OUT FOR YOU AT 20:15 HOURS...WILL SEND BANK ACCOUNT INFO TEN MINUTES LATER...OVER...
TERMINAL T-- *TOGUSA--* TO CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT! WHAT'S THE STATUS OF MY REQUEST?
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WERE BOTH TEST RUNS! IF YOU ASK ME, THIS ONE'S THE *REAL DEAL!!*
YOU KNOW, ABOUT THOSE TWO PREVIOUS REMOTE-CONTROLLED ZOMBIE CASES... BOTH OF THE VICTIMS WERE UNEMPLOYED AND UNATTACHED...
PARKING
WELL.
THE TEXTBOOKS COPS USE DON'T SAY ANY-THING ABOUT WIRETAPS, DO THEY?

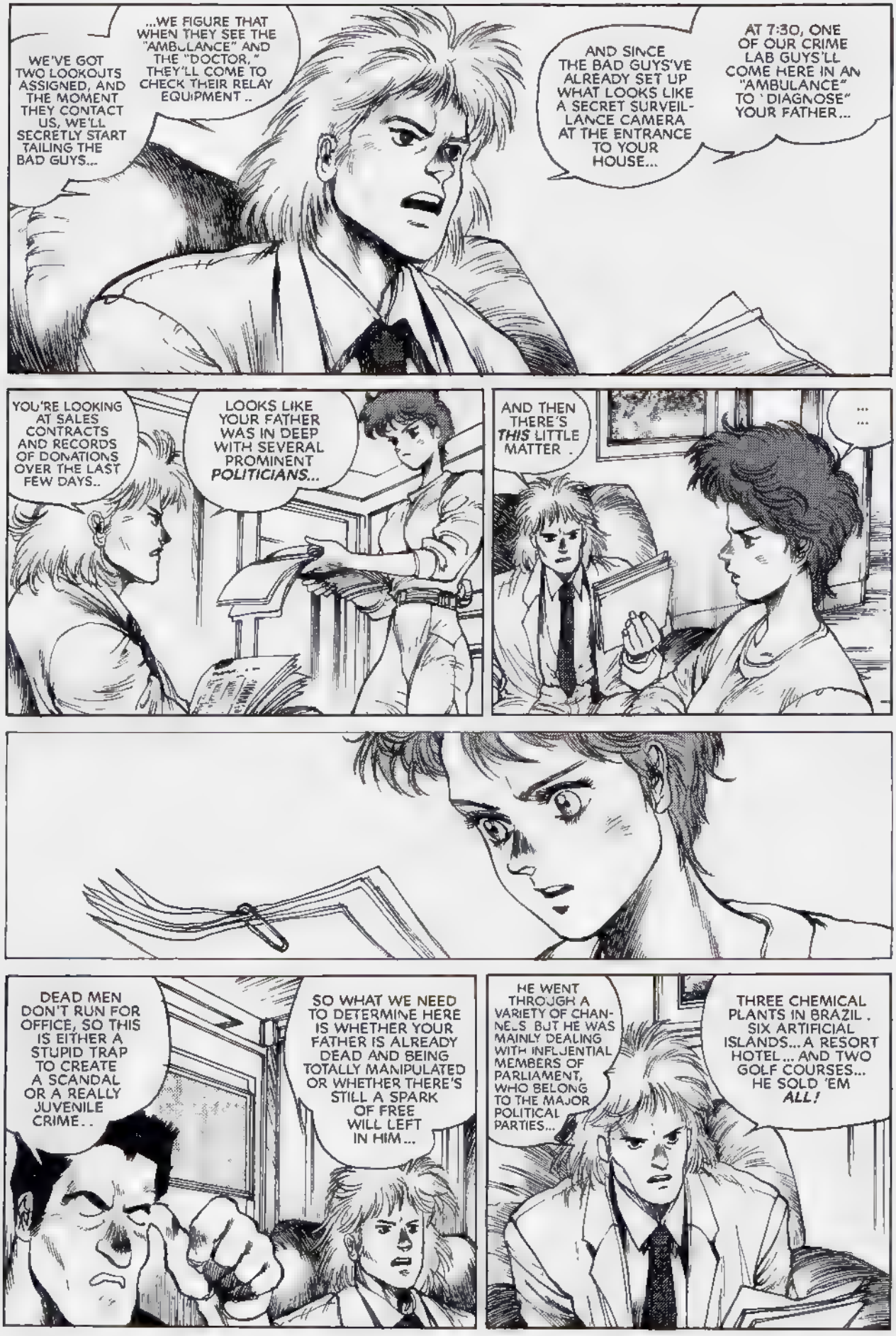
The tray-type of robotic parking shown in the panel above isn't so common in Japan anymore. Instead, auto-parking systems tend to rotate the cargo horizontally. This saves time and trouble, since it's no longer necessary to back out of the facility.


*sign: SANDWICHES
*sign: AUTOMART
WHOOPS! I NEARLY BOUGHT ONE DESIGNED FOR A HUMAN!
Heh heh... I'LL HAVE A TUNA SAND-WICH...
AUTO MART
THAT'S THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS FOR YA
24 HOUR
HEY, CHECK OUT THE PRICE LIST FOR THIS PLACE! FOR THE PRICE OF PARKING HERE, I COULD AFFORD TWO PARKING TICKETS!
B...BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
LISTEN, YOU IDIOT... FOR ME THIS IS LUNCH AND DINNER COMBINED! I'VE GOTTA SNEAK INTO THE YOUNG LADY'S PLACE AND SEARCH FOR THE RELAY CONTROLING THE DEAD MAN'S BODY...
WHAT?! YOU PLAN TO SCARF THOSE SNACKS JUST BY YERSELF?
WHY DO YOU EVEN NEED A SANDWICH, eh?
THE HAYASAKA MANSION SITS ON SIXTEEN ACRES WORTH OF GROUNDS, SO GOOD LUCK SEARCHING, PAL!
DON'T FORGET, WE MEET BACK HERE TOMORROW AT 0600 HOURS!
NO, YOU TAIL HIM! I WANNA SEARCH THE HOUSE!
FROM NOW ON, YOU'VE GOTTA TAIL THE OLD MAN WHEN HE LEAVES HIS OFFICE EVERY DAY AT 3 PM...FIND OUT WHERE THE RELAYS ARE ON ROUTE... AND WATCH WHAT HE DOES...
*FX. GACHUNK
*FX. BZZZZZT
WHAT THE?!
WELL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL--HERE, TAKE THIS! YOU CAN HAVE THE TWO MEALS WORTH OF TUNA SANDWICHES AN' A FLASK OF ESPRESSO...

Sandwiches: In situations like this, sandwiches are an extremely convenient food, especially because they can be eaten with one hand. The sandwiches Togusa bought are made with whole grain dark bread, but actually, as I understand it, white bread wouldn't degrade his camouflage capability as long as he stays in the shadows (he could just hide the sandwich with one hand, of course!). I drew dark bread sandwiches just in case. Of course, the real problem in terms of surveillance work is not so much eating the sandwich, but the noise and smell generated when later expelling it... (And in really big houses, it's the scary dogs you have to worry about...)

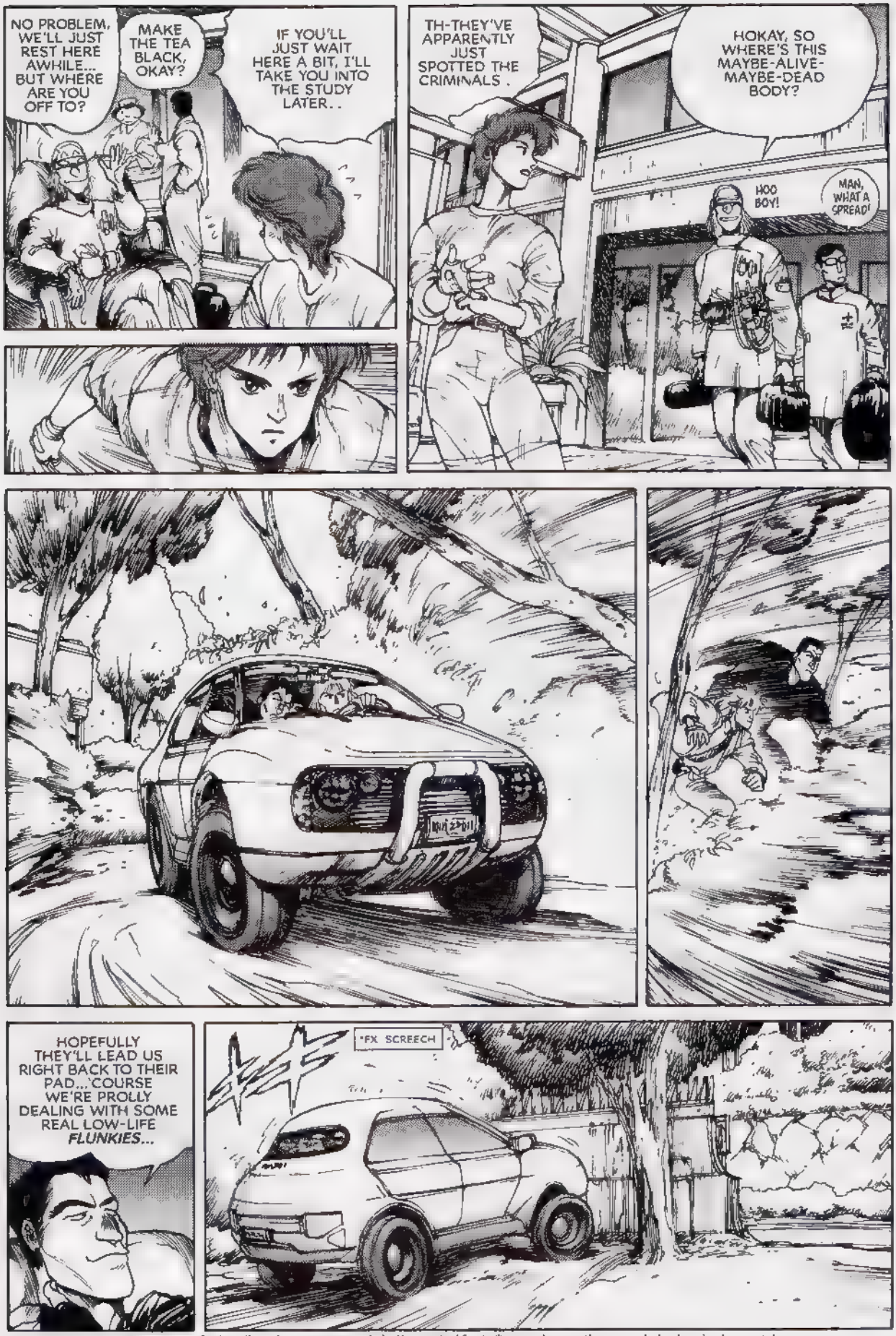

NEXT DAY, 7:05AM
REALLY?
THERE WAS SUCH A BIG FUSS HERE YESTERDAY NOON, AND THEN EVERYTHING GOT SO QUIET, I WAS KIND OF WORRIED...
TOP OF THE GOOD MORNING TO YOU, MISS! AND TO YOU, ALDEHYDE AND AMBOINA!
MORNING!
WHAT THE--?
Eh, hi!


WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING IN MY HOUSE?!
:Shh!: KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! WE DON'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW WE'RE HERE!
LISTEN, MISS, WE'RE SORRY WE HAD TO SNEAK INTO YOUR PLACE LIKE THIS, BUT WE HAD GOOD REASON...
:YAWWWN:
Um, AFTER YOU HEAR WHAT WE DISCOVERED YESTERDAY, YOU WON'T WANT TO...
I'M GOING TO CALL SECTION 9 AND HAVE YOU BOTH REASSIGNED RIGHT AWAY!
*FX: BEEP BEEP BEEP
UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY AN EXPERT WOULD BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE'S ALREADY CLINICALLY DEAD OR NOT...
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT IT DOES APPEAR THAT SOMEONE'S OPERATING YOUR FATHER BY REMOTE CONTROL...
LET'S HEAR IT, THEN..
YEAH SOMEONE HAD MODIFIED THE CAR'S SUSPENSION, BUT WE COULD TELL THEY HAD PUT THE GEAR IN IT 'CUZ THE TIRES WERE SLIGHTLY DEPRESSED.
WE DID CONFIRM THAT HE'S BEING REMOTELY MANIPULATED, THOUGH, BECAUSE WE FOUND SIGNAL RELAY EQUIPMENT IN AN ILLEGALLY PARKED CAR NEARBY...
PHEW!

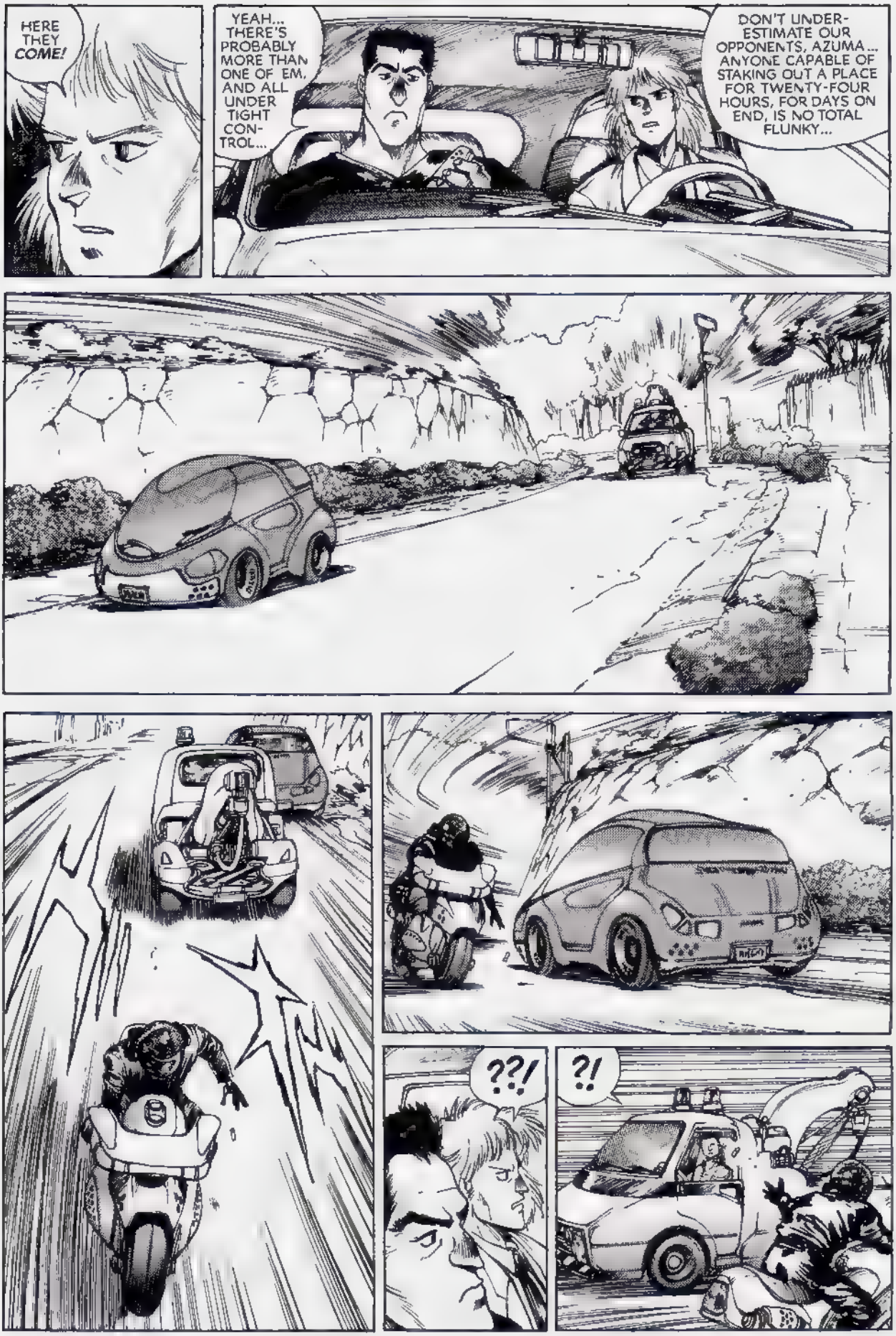

WE'VE GOT TWO LOOKOUTS ASSIGNED, AND THE MOMENT THEY CONTACT US, WE'LL SECRETLY START TAILING THE BAD GUYS...
...WE FIGURE THAT WHEN THEY SEE THE "AMBULANCE" AND THE "DOCTOR," THEY'LL COME TO CHECK THEIR RELAY EQUIPMENT..
AND SINCE THE BAD GUYS'VE ALREADY SET UP WHAT LOOKS LIKE A SECRET SURVEILLANCE CAMERA AT THE ENTRANCE TO YOUR HOUSE...
AT 7:30, ONE OF OUR CRIME LAB GUYS'LL COME HERE IN AN "AMBULANCE" TO "DIAGNOSE" YOUR FATHER...
YOU'RE LOOKING AT SALES CONTRACTS AND RECORDS OF DONATIONS OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS..
LOOKS LIKE YOUR FATHER WAS IN DEEP WITH SEVERAL PROMINENT POLITICIANS...
AND THEN THERE'S THIS LITTLE MATTER.
...
...
DEAD MEN DON'T RUN FOR OFFICE, SO THIS IS EITHER A STUPID TRAP TO CREATE A SCANDAL OR A REALLY JUVENILE CRIME..
SO WHAT WE NEED TO DETERMINE HERE IS WHETHER YOUR FATHER IS ALREADY DEAD AND BEING TOTALLY MANIPULATED OR WHETHER THERE'S STILL A SPARK OF FREE WILL LEFT IN HIM...
HE WENT THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS BUT HE WAS MAINLY DEALING WITH INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, WHO BELONG TO THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES...
THREE CHEMICAL PLANTS IN BRAZIL. SIX ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS... A RESORT HOTEL... AND TWO GOLF COURSES... HE SOLD 'EM ALL!

*FX. BEEP BEEP BEEEP BEEP

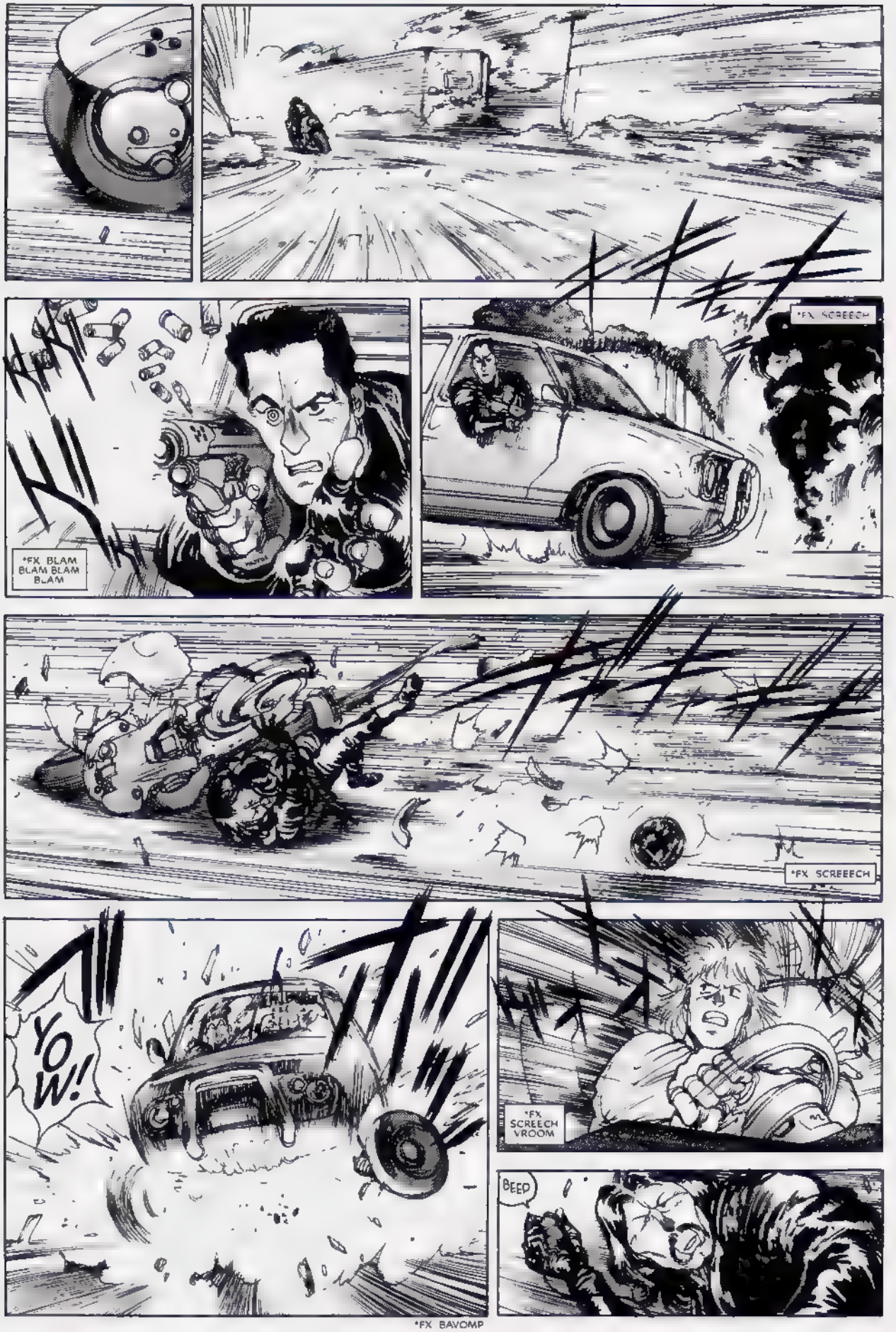

HAH! AGAIN THOSE IDIOTS CAME EARLIER THAN THEY SAID THEY WOULD!
R-REALLY? Er, WELL, LET THEM IN...
Er, um, THERE'S AN AMBULANCE HERE, MISS...?!
WHA? WHY, YOU'RE RIGHT...
YER CELL'S RINGING...
WHOOPS... THERE GOES ME AND MY BIG OLD MOUTH AGAIN...
IF YOU NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER AND CHANGE FIRST, WE CAN HAVE HIM WAIT A BIT...
YOU WANT TO STAY AND WATCH WHILE THE EXAMINERS DO THEIR WORK, MISS?
WITH A TOW TRUCK, IT'S A GOOD THING WE EXPANDED THE SEALED-OFF AREA, NO?
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE THIS!
THEY'RE COMING HERE ALREADY? AN' THEY'RE PROS?
I SEE A TOW TRUCK THAT APPEARS TO BELONG TO THE BAD GUYS. IT'S ON ROUTE 33, IN NISHI-WARD... HEADED YOUR WAY... OVER!
SPOTTER TO KILN...
YES, I'D LIKE TO DO THAT...
BEEP


NO PROBLEM, WE'LL JUST REST HERE AWHILE... BUT WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
MAKE THE TEA BLACK, OKAY?
IF YOU'LL JUST WAIT HERE A BIT, I'LL TAKE YOU INTO THE STUDY LATER..
TH-THEY'VE APPARENTLY JUST SPOTTED THE CRIMINALS.
OKAY, SO WHERE'S THIS MAYBE-ALIVE-MAYBE-DEAD BODY?
HOO BOY!
MAN, WHAT A SPREAD!
HOPEFULLY THEY'LL LEAD US RIGHT BACK TO THEIR PAD...'COURSE WE'RE PROLLY DEALING WITH SOME REAL LOW-LIFE FLUNKIES...
*FX SCREECH

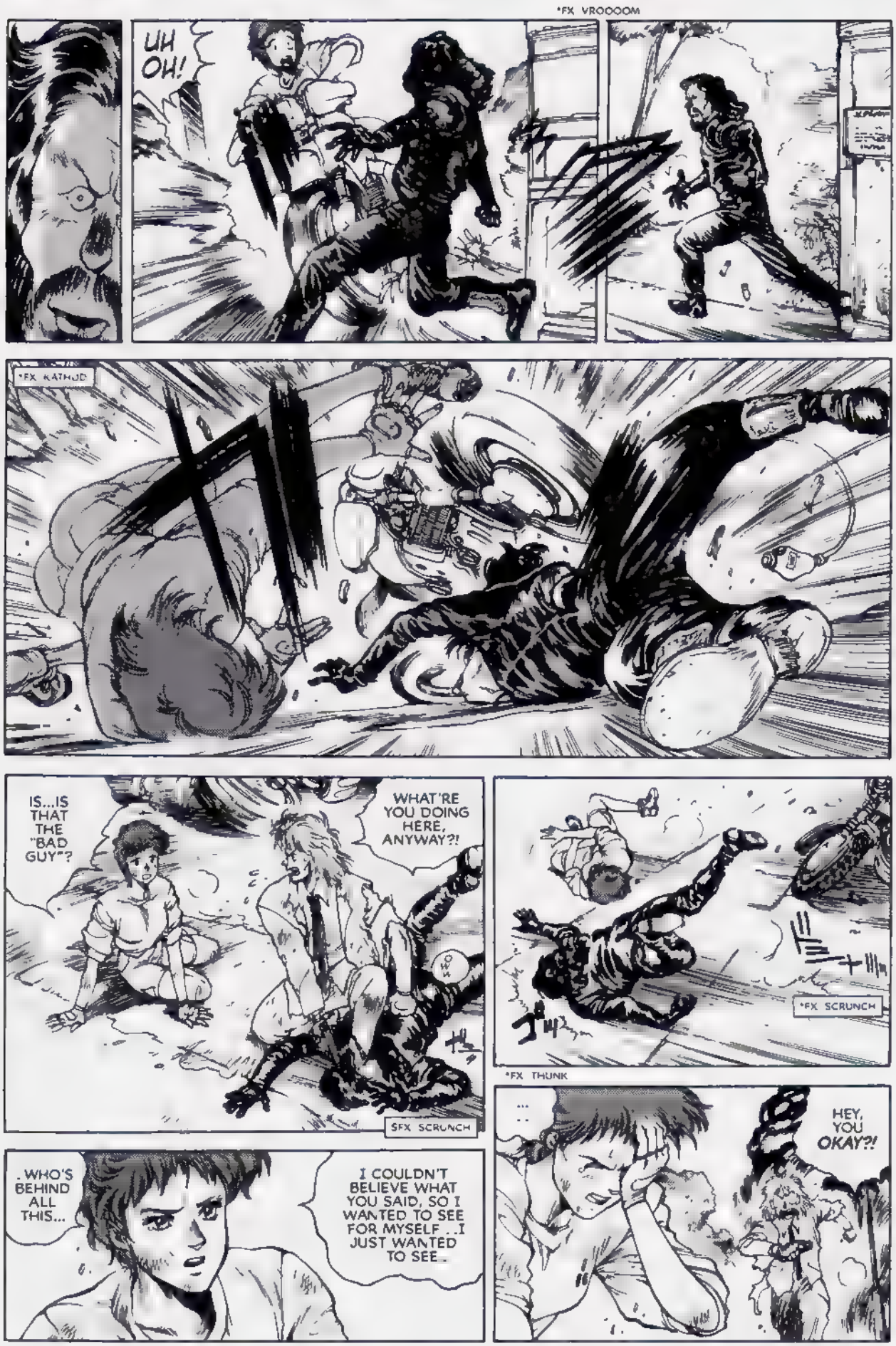
Togusa and Azuma are using a fairly tall car here because it's better suited for tailing and surveillance and also harder to see into. Choice of vehicle does not necessarily reflect the personal preference of the characters or the artist.


HERE THEY COME!
YEAH... THERE'S PROBABLY MORE THAN ONE OF EM, AND ALL UNDER TIGHT CON-TROL...
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE OUR OPPONENTS, AZUMA... ANYONE CAPABLE OF STAKING OUT A PLACE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, FOR DAYS ON END, IS NO TOTAL FLUNKY...
??!
?!
*FX VROOOM


*FX KABOOOM
*FX BA VOMP BOM BOM
!


*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
*FX SCREECH
*FX SCREEECH
YOW!
*FX SCREECH VROOM
BEEP
*FX BAVOMP


*FX: FLICK
*FX: TROMP TROMP TROMP
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS!
SAY WHA?!
STOP! STOP OR MY TRIGGER-HAPPY PAL'LL RIDDLE YOU!
AIEEE!
*FX: SHWP
CHK
*FX: KVAM!


*FX VROOOOM
UH OH!
*FX KATHUD
IS...IS THAT THE "BAD GUY"?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY?!
OH
SFX SCRUNCH
*FX SCRUNCH
*FX THUNK
...
HEY, YOU OKAY?!
. WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS...
I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU SAID, SO I WANTED TO SEE FOR MYSELF ..I JUST WANTED TO SEE..


OUGHTA BANISH THE BROAD...
WELL...IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A LEAK, AND THE BAD GUYS LEARNED THAT SECTION 9 WAS INVOLVED... SO THEY SENT THIS PUNK OUT TO GET RID OF THE TOW TRUCK FLUNKY AND THE EVIDENCE, TOO...
WELL?
AZUMA, I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT WHERE THE FLUNKY LIVES! AND TAKE THE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD WITH YOU!
TOGUSA...I WANT TO STAKE OUT HIS HIDE-OUT... AND DON'T FORGET TO TAKE HIS VOICE- AND FINGERPRINTS WITH YOU...
HE SHOWS NO RESPONSE TO ANY WORDS SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE CASE OR TO ANY QUERY ABOUT HOW HE GOT HOLD OF THE BOMBS IN THE FIRST PLACE...
AT LEAST HE'S NOT GONNA BLOW HIMSELF UP...
FROM A SCAN OF HIS BRAIN, I'D SAY THE ONLY CLEAR MEMORIES THE GUY HAS ARE OF HIS OWN ACTIONS DURING THE OP, AND HOW TO HANDLE BOMBS...
DUNNO WHY, BUT IT REMINDS ME OF "THE PUPPE-TEER"...
SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY THIS CASE IS DEVELOPING GIVES ME THE CREEPS..

TO BE CONTINUED

GEN CON

WHATEVER IT TAKES!



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HORSEPOWER

I LOVE WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER



THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING AN EDITOR in this business—aside from the limos, private planes, and supermodels—is getting the chance to work with people you really, really want to work with. Let's face it, work is work, and even though my office is in a place whose wise policies actually *encourage* Rosario Dawson *Sin City* screen savers, it's still, y'know, *work*. So, you do your best, try not to set the place on fire, and make your plans to work with creators with the Right Stuff

See, comics companies have specific personalities and talent that fits their personalities. There are Marvel and DC and Fantagraphics people. (I'm told there were Crossgen people but, sadly, they are all dead.) To me, Dark Horse people tend to be an odd lot, talented as all get-out, but not self absorbed in that talent, capable of knocking your eyes out with their art or head-slapping you with their writing, but knowing that this ain't curing cancer Swing for the fences, enjoy the game, be grateful you don't clean septic tanks.

But the toughest part about working with people you want to work with is, well, actually getting the chance to work with 'em. You've got no openings when they come knocking, they're committed when you're hat in hand. Which brings us to Sean Murphy.

I first saw Sean's stuff at a convention, and it floored me. He drew well—in spades—but he could *tell a story*. I could look at the pictures, loaded with dynamics and visual drama, and still actually tell what was going on. On top of that, he just plain *got it*. Definitely a Dark Horse guy. But we were never able to work together. I relentlessly pimped his work, which helped him snag a Dark Horse job (on *Crush*, a seriously under-appreciated book), but then he got sucked into other gigs at other publishing houses (some who openly swear allegiance to Satan), including a project he wrote and drew that was absolutely amazing that he never offered Dark Horse. I tried to kill him and failed, and told him I'd finish the job if he didn't bring me his next project.

So, one day out of the blue, Sean sends me the germ of this science-fiction action-comedy he's working on with Zach Howard, another kickass artist whose work incredibly shares the same sensibilities as Sean's. The project, *Outer Orbit*, featured gorgeous art and was gut-bustingly funny, ruder even than I am. Frankly, they had me at "space chicken truck" (probably because I couldn't figure whether this was a load of chickens in a space truck or a truck loaded with space chickens). And there's this preoccupation with thongs. On dudes. (Let us not speak of this again.) But I *had* to get Dark Horse on board, and somehow it happened. I'm not saying compromising photos of management were involved, but I'm not saying they weren't.

Anyway, I finally got a chance to meet Zach at Comic-Con, and damned if he didn't have the Dark Horse mojo. He works for the check when he has to, but deep down, he's all about the thong. I should also mention writer of screen and funny-book Hans Rodionoff, who was brought onto the project by Zach and Sean essentially to keep them from murdering each other. Somebody has to.

And so, my "plans" have come together as they usually do, magnificently, like garbage cans rolling down a hill. Heal, if it was easy, everyone would do it.

—Chris Warner, Señor Editor

DARK HORSE 20 YEARS

October 2006

Dark Horse Comics

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GHOST IN THE SHELL 1.5

HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊



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攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 2 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

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またデッチ上げやギミックの「誤用」による二次被害には当方責任を負いかねますす点を御了承願います。

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

ASSISTANT EDITOR
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

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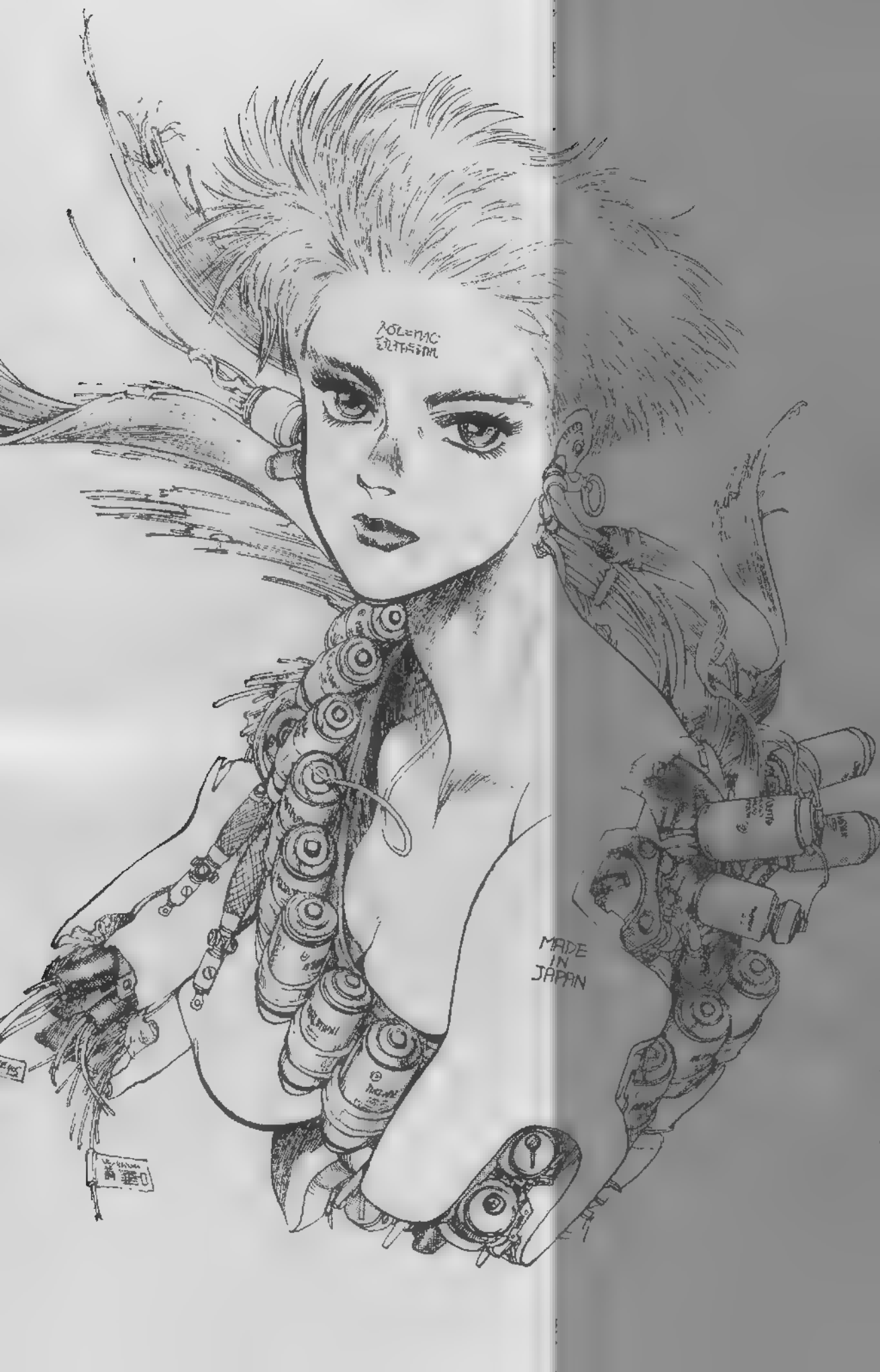
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FAT CAT Part 2



NOW LOADING...


MADE
IN
JAPAN

THE STORY THUS FAR...

AGAWAH?!?!

LEMME TELL YA, MISS YER DADDY'S WALKIN', BUT HE'S *DEAD!!*

CHIEF ARAMAKI

MR HAYASAKA

HEH HEH.

YOU SEE THAT? MY DADDY'S ACTING WEIRD!

SHE'S NOT YOUR TYPICAL CUTE-GIRL CHARACTER

ONE DAY, THE WELL-BRED DAUGHTER OF MR HAYASAKA-- A WEALTHY MAN WHO LIKES TO DABBLE IN POLITICS-- VISITS PUBLIC SECURITY'S SECTION NINE...

LEAVE ME ALONE!

公安9課

*sign PUBLIC SECURITY, SECTION NINE

YAY! WE FOUND A SIGNAL RELAY THAT CONTROLS HAYASAKA!!

MEANWHILE, ASUMA GOES TO WORK ON THE ALARM SYSTEM AT THE HAYASAKA ESTATE

HEH HEH

*FX GRRRRRR ARF! ARF

TOGUSA IS ASSIGNED TO TAIL MR. HAYASAKA...

AND SO.

HEY, DUNKHEAD! WHAD YA THINK YOU'RE DOING GETTING ON A TRAIN WITH A MOTORBIKE HEY?

UM SCUSE

*FX KABABOOOOM

EVERYTHING GOES FINE UNTIL THEY TRY TO DRAW THE BAD GUYS INTO THE OPEN BY MAKING IT LOOK LIKE THE RELAY'S BROKEN...

. AND IT TURNS OUT THAT THE BOMBER IS BEING MANIPULATED BY SOMEONE ELSE...

THE FLUNKY WORKING FOR THE BAD GUYS IS CHARRED TO A CRISP...

UH, WHO AM I?

*FX RUMBLE RUMBLE

TOGUSA IS ASSIGNED TO COVER THE BOMBER'S ADDRESS...

...WHILE AZUMA HEADS FOR THE LATE FLUNKY'S HIDEOUT..

MR HAYASAKA'S LIMP BODY, MINUS THE CONTROL SIGNALS IT NEEDS TO KEEP MOVING..

AND..

SO THAT LEAVES..

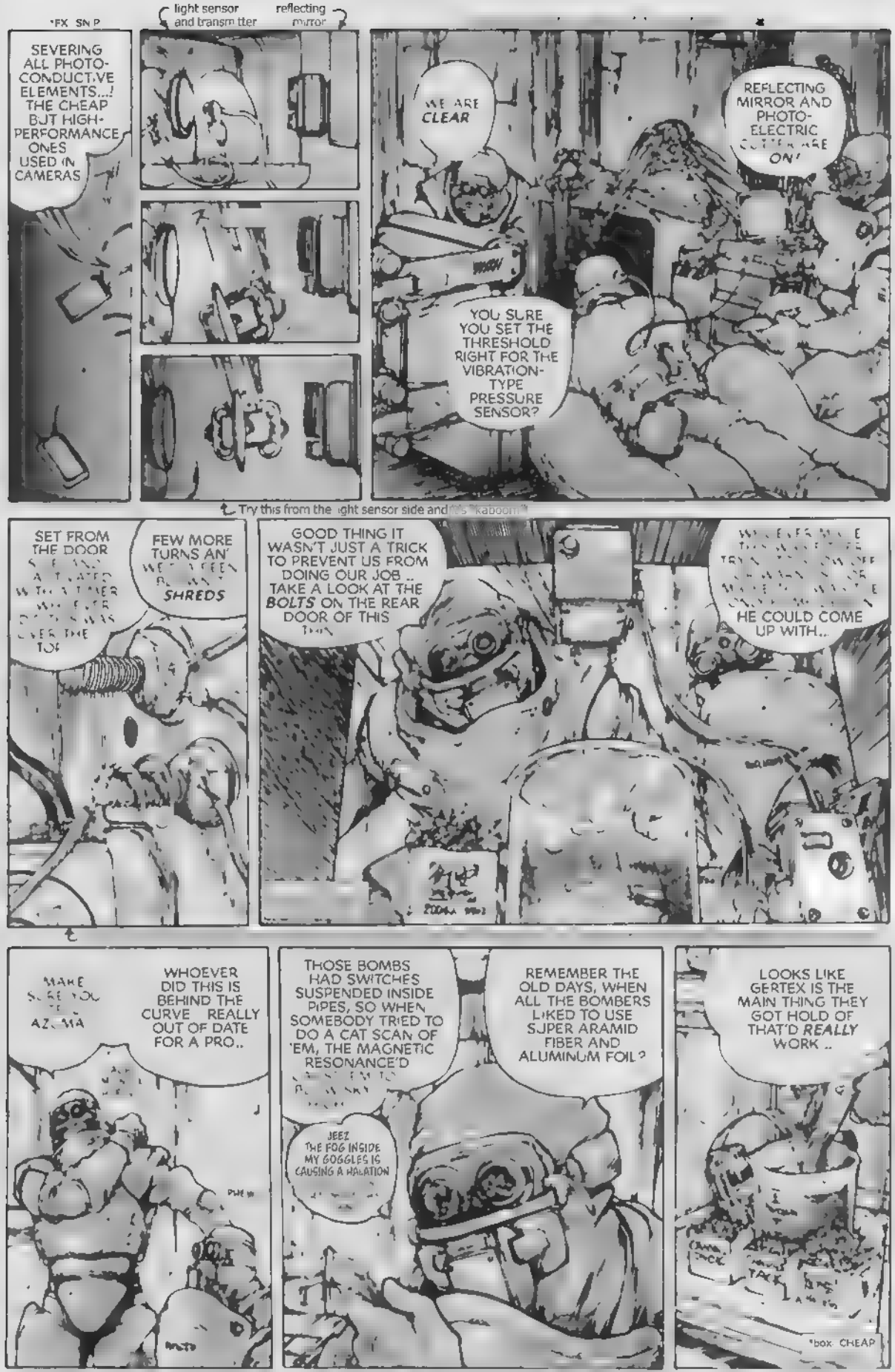
...A LIST OF POLITICIANS TO WHOM MR. HAYASAKA HAD BEEN WANTONLY, ALMOST SELF-DESTRUCTIVELY, SENDING MONEY...


HAH HAH... THAT SURE SOUNDS LIKE AZUMA...
HEY IF IT'S ANOTHER PHOTO OF A CORPSE SPARE ME ARAMAKI! I HAVEN'T HAD *LUNCH* YET!"
I'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE THAT I WANT YOU TO SEE
SINCE WE'RE BOTH BUSY WHY DON'T WE JUST GET TO THE POINT ?
BUT I ASSUME YOU CAME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT YOUR WORK *ARAMAKI* RIGHT?
I NEED INFORMATION .. DO YOU NEED A LETTER OF APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTER AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN ORDER TO GIVE IT TO ME?
I KNOW YOU CAN'T ANSWER BUT WHERE THE HELL'D YOU GET THIS?
NO IT'S A LIST OF *NAMES.*


THERE ARE FOUR NAMES MISSING HERE, INCLUDING MINE.. BUT THIS OTHERWISE IS A LIST OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL COUNCIL THAT'S EVALUATING WHETHER OR NOT EACH PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS KEYS FOR PANDORA.
NO, WHAT THE HELL... THIS IS SOMETHING THAT EVENTUALLY INVOLVES YOUR SECTION ANYWAY..
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL?
THE COUNCIL MEMBERS IN FAVOR OF GRANTING ACCESS TH NK EACH PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS THE INFORMATION IN PANDORA, BOTH FOR TRADE AND BECAUSE OF THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NETWORKS BEING USED BY OTHER COUNTRIES
...AND THAT INCLUDES INFORMATION ON NEARLY EVERY-THING SECTION NINE AND MY DEPARTMENT RE UP TO...
AS YOU KNOW, TONS OF MILITARY AND PUBLIC SECURITY SECRETS ARE STORED N PANDORA..
LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY. SOMEBODY'S BEEN TOSS NG A LOT OF MONEY AROUND
GOOD THING I MADE SOME CONNEC-TIONS AT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE...
THERE'S A MAN AT THE NSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY NAMED TAKAOKA...
SO WHERE DID THIS CRAZY IDEA OF SHARING ACCESS KEYS TO PANDORA COME FROM ANYWAY . ?
DON'T TELL ME YOU STILL HARBOR HOPES OF BEING PROMOTED SOMEDAY, DO YOU?
WHAT?!
LISTEN, IF THAT'S THE CASE WE CAN T EVEN AFFORD TO BE SEEN TOGETHER, ARAMAKI! THEY LL SAY THIS IS A PUT-UP BLACK OP''
THIS EXPLAINS WHY THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THE COUNCIL'S WAY OF SELECTING ITS MEMBERS, AND THE PROCEEDINGS THEMSELVES
SHIT...

The Institute of Technology is affiliated with the government's Ministry of Trade and Industry. The council in question is comprised of representatives of all the related government agencies, and its members are supposed to resolve their differences through discussion and compromise. What the official here is referring to as "weird" is the fact that certain opinions in the group seem to pass without debate. The minutes of the council meetings are never made public, of course.

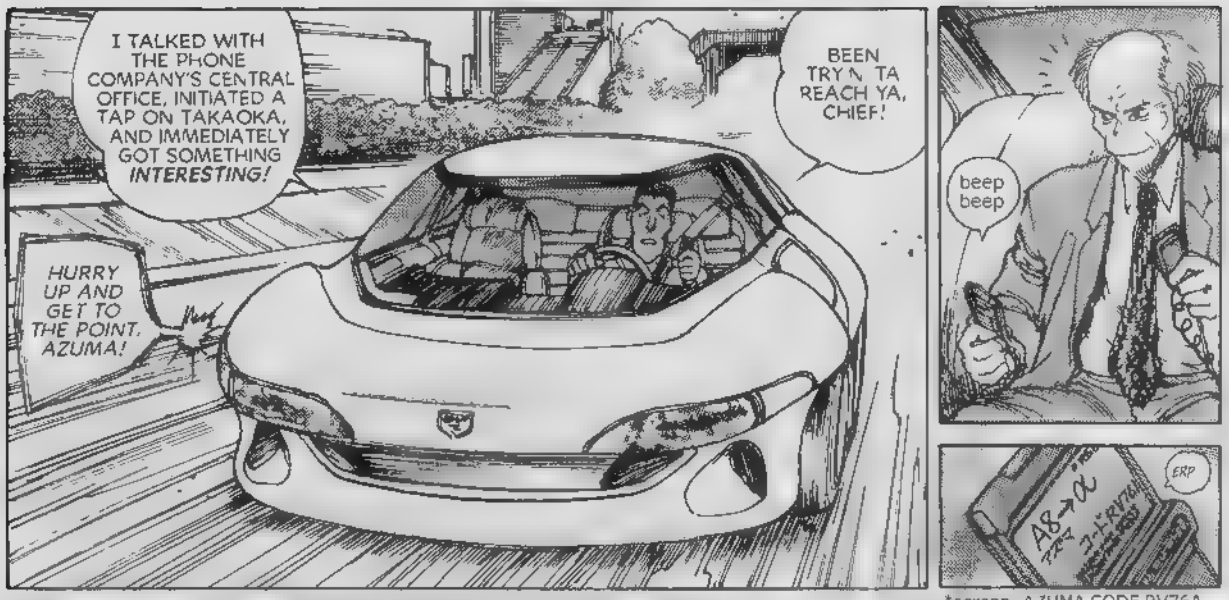

NOPE, I'M STILL AT THE FLUNKY'S HIDEOUT
ALREADY CHECKED BEHIND ALL HIS POSTERS AND IN HIS SOUP, BUT COULDN'T FIND A DAMN THING!!
SAY WHA?
WE'RE TRYING TO OPEN THE GUY'S REFRIGERATOR RIGHT NOW, BOSS
THING'S GOT A SINGLE, PARALLEL REFLECTIVE TYPE OF PHOTO ELECTRIC BREAKER BUILT INTO IT ..
WHAT'S WITH THE LASER SCAN HEY?
HEH HEH . DON'T WORRY I'M ON MY WAY OUT, GUYS'
HEY, AZUMA YOU'VE GOT INFRARED EYES, RIGHT? WELL, WE'RE GONNA TURN THE LIGHTS OUT AND OPEN THIS BABY'S LID, SO DON'T LOOK, OKAY?!
AN I'VE GOT MY INFRARED TURNED OFF!
CHECK TO SEE IF HE'S BEING BLACKMAILED BECAUSE OF A KIDNAPPED FAMILY MEMBER OR IF THERE'VE BEEN ANY SUSPICIOUS TRANSFERS OF MONEY AND PROPERTY UNDER HIS CONTROL ..
LEAVE THAT STUFF UP TO OUR FORENSICS GUYS, AZUMA . I WANT YOU TO GO TO CHECK OUT TAKAOKA, OF THE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AND THEY'RE NOT GOING FOR A ONE-OFF HACK... SEEMS LIKE THEY WANT PERMANENT ACCESS ..
THE CRIMINALS BEHIND THIS ARE APPARENTLY GOING DEEP INTO PANDORA AND PUBLIC SECURITY'S DATABASE...
This ultra-precise liquid-nitrogen-cooled cutting tool is designed to suck up any particulate matter that it generates, and also to be vibration-free. In other words, it is designed to not activate any vibration or motion sensors built into the bomb


*FX SN P
light sensor and transm tter
reflecting mirror
SEVERING ALL PHOTO-CONDUCTIVE ELEMENTS...! THE CHEAP BUT HIGH-PERFORMANCE ONES USED IN CAMERAS
WE ARE CLEAR
REFLECTING MIRROR AND PHOTO-ELECTRIC CUTTERS ARE ON!
YOU SURE YOU SET THE THRESHOLD RIGHT FOR THE VIBRATION-TYPE PRESSURE SENSOR?
Try this from the ight sensor side and
SET FROM THE DOOR
FEW MORE TURNS AN'
SHREDS
GOOD THING IT WASN'T JUST A TRICK TO PREVENT US FROM DOING OUR JOB .. TAKE A LOOK AT THE BOLTS ON THE REAR DOOR OF THIS
HE COULD COME UP WITH..
MAKE SURE YOU
AZUMA
WHOEVER DID THIS IS BEHIND THE CURVE REALLY OUT OF DATE FOR A PRO..
THOSE BOMBS HAD SWITCHES SUSPENDED INSIDE PIPES, SO WHEN SOMEBODY TRIED TO DO A CAT SCAN OF 'EM, THE MAGNETIC RESONANCE'D
REMEMBER THE OLD DAYS, WHEN ALL THE BOMBERS LIKED TO USE SUPER ARAMID FIBER AND ALUMINUM FOIL?
JEEZ THE FOG INSIDE MY GOGGLES IS CAUSING A HALATION
LOOKS LIKE GERTEX IS THE MAIN THING THEY GOT HOLD OF THAT'D REALLY WORK ..
*box CHEAP

Re· the warning referred to in panel 6. If the goal had been to kill the flunky, a it would take is for something far more primitive to be connected to the door of the apartment

For safety and liab reasons, author has suppressed use of some termin gy here —the editors

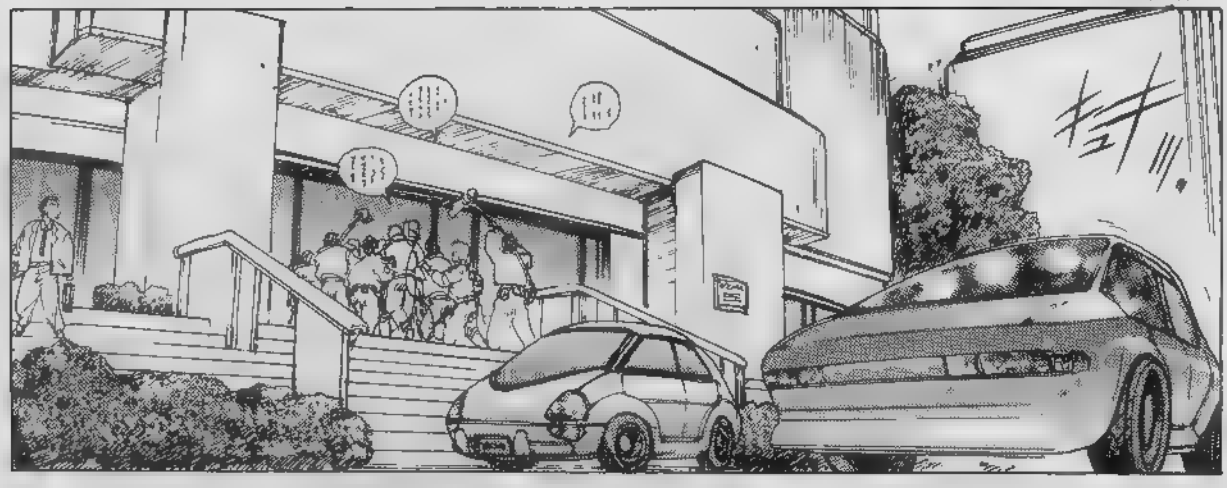

YESSIR
GIVE ME AN UPDATE, TOGUSA'
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP
AN' ..ER.. COULD YOU SEND FIVE OR SIX MORE GUYS? HEH HEH...
WELL, ER I'M AT THE BOMBER'S PLACE NOW
THEY'RE WHAT?!!
UM ABOUT THE DEAD GUY'S LAWYER UM I MEAN MR HAYASAKA'S LAWYER WELL HE AND KUSUNOKI, THE D.A....THEY'RE APPARENTLY HEADED FOR HEADQUARTERS...
WHAT'D YOU SAY?'
YOU KNOW WE'VE GOT MANPOWER CONSTRAINTS, TOGUSA... I'LL SEND TWO, AND THAT'S IT! OVER...
B BUT
beep beep


I TALKED WITH THE PHONE COMPANY'S CENTRAL OFFICE, INITIATED A TAP ON TAKAOKA, AND IMMEDIATELY GOT SOMETHING *INTERESTING!*
HURRY UP AND GET TO THE POINT, AZUMA!
BEEN TRYN TA REACH YA, CHIEF!
beep beep
ERP

*screen AZUMA CODE RV76A


.AN' SAID "THE CLIENT'S A 'DEAD MAN' AND IS BEING ILLEGALLY CONFINED .. YOUR URGENT ATTENTION'S REQUIRED!"
WELL, HE CALLED UP THE LAW FIRM THAT THE DEAD GUY'S CONTRACTED WITH


BLAST IT
WHA?
WELL, KEEP AT T THEN. OVER
*FX BEEP
IT WAS A CAR LINE, SO HE MUST BE DRIVING SOMEWHERE..
SO WHERE'S TAKAOKA NOW?
I'M PRETTY IMPRESSED WITH MYSELF, THOUGH... *HEH, HEH...* LIKE THEY SAY, GOOD LUCK'S A GOOD SKILL TA HAVE...
AT ANY RATE, I'VE JUST INITIATED CONTACT, SO THE NEXT STEP'LL BE TO FIND OUT WHAT SORT OF ACTION HE PLANS TO TAKE, AND WHAT BANK HE'S USING.
*FX HEH HEH HEH


キュキュ!!!


WELL, WELL, KUSUNOKI... SINCE WHEN DID YOU TURN FROM BEING A D.A. TO A POLITICIAN?!
OUT OF THE WAY!

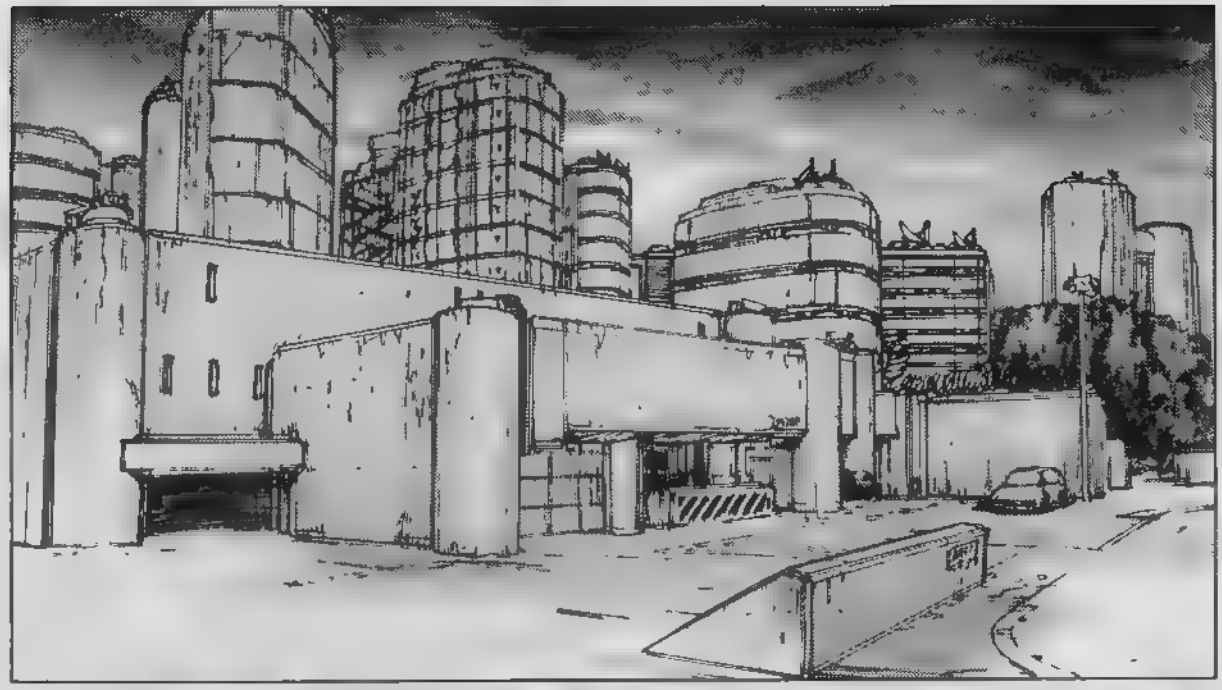

I WILL NEVER AGREE TO SUCH A PRIMITIVE ABUSE OF POWER!! THIS IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF THE LAST CENTURY!


WELL, AT ANY RATE, LET S GO INTO MY OFFICE..
WHY? YOU GOT SOMETHING YOU'RE AFRAID TO TALK ABOUT N PUBLIC?

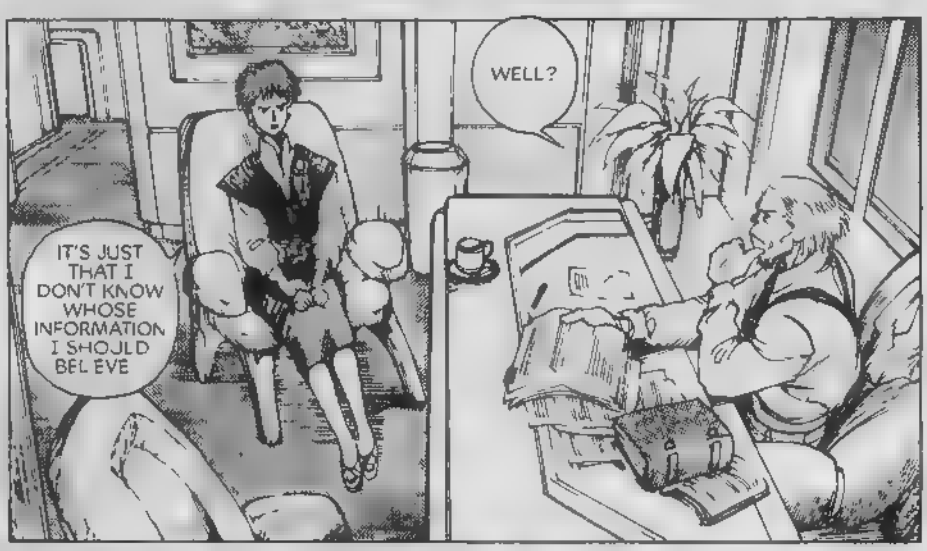

PLEASE, MR. HAYASAKA, I TOLD YOU TO ALWAYS GO THROUGH ME ..
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF GALL TO TREAT ME AS A DEAD MAN, ARAMAKI...


THIS HASN'T HAPPENED SINCE BACK IN SEPTEMBER 30, WHEN A YOUNG BOY WAS SHOT TO DEATH. BUT THIS TIME I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO ESTABLISH WHO S RESPONSIBLE AND HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE!!

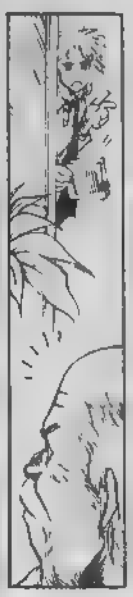

EXCUSE ME, BUT I'LL SEE YOU IN COURT, ARAMAKI...
OF COURSE, HE'S UNABLE TO MAKE A PHONE CALL ! AFTER ALL, THEY WERE ALMOST READY TO DO AN AUTOPSY ON HIM!
WE'VE GOT EVIDENCE HAYASAKA'S TOTALLY BRAIN DEAD... UNABLE TO EVEN MAKE A PHONE CALL BY HIMSELF . SO THAT LEAVES OPEN THE QUESTION... WHO CONTACTED THE LAWYERS?
LISTEN, KUSUNOKI .. I KNOW YOU RAN HERE AFTER SOMEONE IN THE LAW FIRM REPRESENTING HAYASAKA BEGGED YOU TO COME..
NO COM MENT
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT AN AUTOPSY?
HEY, OWDADA-WAY!!
PLEASE WE NEED A WORD FROM THE D STR.CT ATTORNEY
SLAM!
AND IT MAY BE DONE IN A WAY THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO INSPECT HIS BRAIN. SO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
I THINK WE RE OKAY FOR NOW, BUT WHEN THE COUNCIL DELIBERATING THIS SSJE ENDS ITS SESSION, HAYASAKA MAY BE ATTACKED .
WHEN I CAME BACK FROM LUNCH, HIS LAWYER AND THE D A WERE HERE. AND AT THAT POINT HE WAS ALREADY UP AND MOVING ABOUT...
SO WHEN DID HAYASAKA START MOVING AROUND, ANYWAY?
I WANT YOU AND SHIGA TO TAIL HAYASAKA' FIND THE PERSON CONTROLLING HIM, OR AT LEAST THE RELAYS USED TO DO SO, OKAY?
SIR?
SAITO!



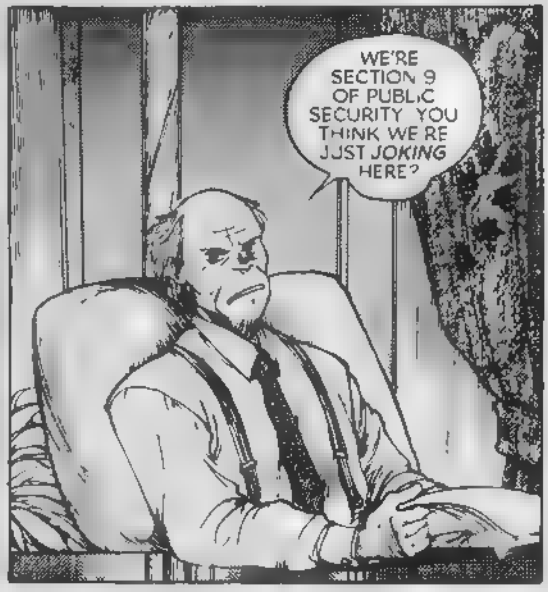

YOU THINK MY FATHER'S *REALLY* DEAD?


IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T KNOW WHOSE INFORMATION I SHOULD BELEVE
WELL?


DON'T WORRY, MS. *HAYASAKA*... IF ANYTHING COMES UP, WE'LL DEFINITELY LET YOU KNOW..




I. KNOW IT SOUNDS ODD, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW MY FATHER VERY WELL ..


WE'RE SECTION 9 OF PUBLIC SECURITY YOU THINK WE'RE JUST *JOKING* HERE?


HOW'D HE GET THE GERTEX, THOUGH?
HAVEN'T UNCOVERED ANYTHING ELSE OF NOTE FROM THE BOMBER S PLACE
I CHECKED THE PHONE LOG TO BE SURE, AND SHE MADE LONG CALLS THE DAY BEFORE SHE VISITED SECTION 9 AND ALSO THAT NIGHT, TOO..
ABOUT THAT INFORMATON LEAK, CHIEF.. IT LOOKS LIKE THE BOMBER WAS TAPPING INTO A LINE AT ONE OF HER FRIEND S HOUSES ..
AN ONE OTHER THING THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THAT E THER THE BOMBER OR THE FLUNKY WERE GETTING RENUMERATED . AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ONLY HAD THEIR OWN KEYS AN' SIGNATURE CHOPS ..
THE USUAL. STOLEN FROM MILITARY STOCK-PILES...
MAKES SENSE, I GUESS..
BUT THAT'S SOMETHING ONLY SHE KNOWS ABOUT..
PROBABLY
MUST BE TOUGH ON HER, HUH ?
THE MODUS OPERANDI REMINDS ME OF THE PUPPETEER... BUT THE BOMBS WERE ARCHAIC... AND THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE KEYS TO PANDORA...
I JUST WISH I KNEW WHAT SORT OF CONNECTION THERE WAS BETWEEN TAKAOKA, THIS BUSINESS ABOUT GIVING ACCESS KEYS TO PANDORA TO THE VARIOUS PREFECTURAL GOVERNMENTS, AND THE CASE WE'RE WORKING ON .


THE DEFENSE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DOCUMENT [illegible] ENTERED
THE PROSECUTION WOULD LIKE TO ENTER DOCUMENT [illegible] AS COURT'S EVIDENCE
WELL, THEN THAT CONCLUDES THE FIRST ROUND OF ORAL PROCEEDINGS
LET ME MAKE A RECOMMENDATION THAT WILL ALLOW US TO *EXPEDITE* THE TRIAL NEXT TIME
AND WITH THAT
WE SHALL NOW BEGIN THE ORAL PROCEEDINGS..
BUT IN THIS CASE I BELIEVE THE MOST EFFICIENT WAY TO PROCEED WOULD BE TO CONSULT WITH EACH OTHER, AND IN AS FAIR A MANNER AS POSSIBLE, TO SELECT A MUTUALLY AGREED UPON, ***NEUTRAL*** PHYSICIAN...
THE MAIN ISSUE HERE SEEMS TO BE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PHYSICIANS BOTH PARTIES HAVE RETAINED TO EVALUATE MR. HAYASAKA... NOW, I'M FULLY AWARE THAT BOTH OF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN OPINIONS..

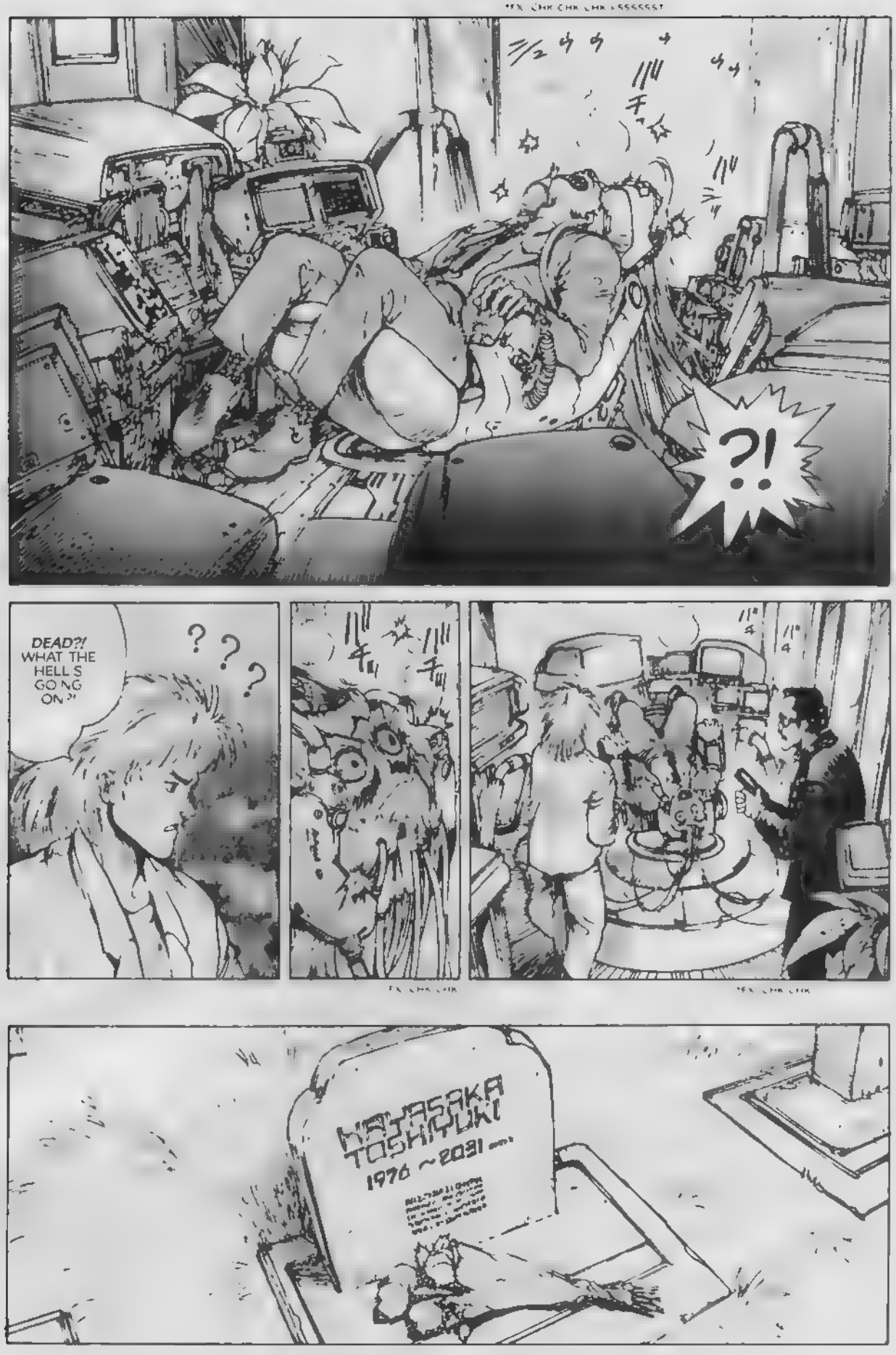

IF YOU COULD JUST LET US USE AN ELECTRONICALLY ISOLATED ROOM IN THIS COURTHOUSE, WE COULD EASILY DETERMINE WHETHER MR. HAYASAKA'S DEAD OR ALIVE
AND WHAT MIGHT THAT BE, MR. ARAMAKI?
IF I MAY SAY SO YOUR HONOR, THERE IS AN EVEN *MORE* EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS
BRING MR. HAYASAKA HERE TOMORROW AT 9 AM .. I'LL BE HERE WAITING FOR YOU...
THAT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM WE'LL PREPARE A ROOM FOR YOU..
*FX. THUNK
*HMPH... YOU GUYS SHOULDA USED A BIGGER VAN FOR SURVEILLANCE...
NOK NOK
*FX. CHIK CHAK

I forgot to mention it, dear reader, but this story is of course ***fiction...*** It stems from the illusion that there is no connection between the executive and administrative branches of government and private equities. In case you didn't know


EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS WE'VE GOT HIM UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE?
AN' THE WAY THE CHIEF SEES IT, IF TAKAOKA'S THE ONE REALLY BEHIND ALL TH S, HE'LL HEAR ABOJT IT FROM THE LAWYER AND PROBABLY MAKE HIS MOVE EITHER TODAY OR BY TOMORROW MORNING...
SO HAYASAKA S GONNA BE TESTED TOMORROW MORN NG AT 9AM N THE COURT-HOUSE
WE MIGHT NOT FIGURE OUT EVERY-THING GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES WITH TAKAOKA, BUT WE COULD AT LEAST *STOP* H M
AND THEN THE COUNCIL DEALING WITH PANDORA LL BE BACK TO SQUARE ONE..
WELL, IF WORD GETS OUT THAT HAYASAKA'S REALLY A ZOMBIE, WE OUGHTA BE ABLE TO GET TAKAOKA OUT IN THE OPEN JUST FROM THE LAWYER S CONTACT LOGS, RIGHT ?
WHAT THE *FUCK?*
AND HE'S TALKING TO HAYASAKA'S LAWYER!!
WE'RE *RECORDING!*
TAKAOKA'S PICKED UP THE RECEIVER!!
BZZZT
BZZZT
CHK
*FX BZZZZZZZZZZ

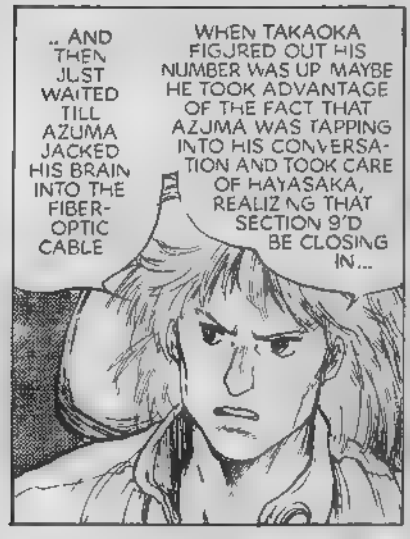

*FX KASHAK
WHAT THE--?!
AZUMA! WHAT'S UP?!
WHOOOSH
*FX CRASH
*FX WHOM
*FX SLAM
PUT A LOCK ON THE LOG SO IT CAN'T BE PLAYED BACK, AND SEAL ALL TAP LINES W TH ATTACK BARRIERS I'LL CONTACT THE CH EF!
PUT AZUMA TO SLEEP! AND DON'T LET HIM OUT OF THE VAN!!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!

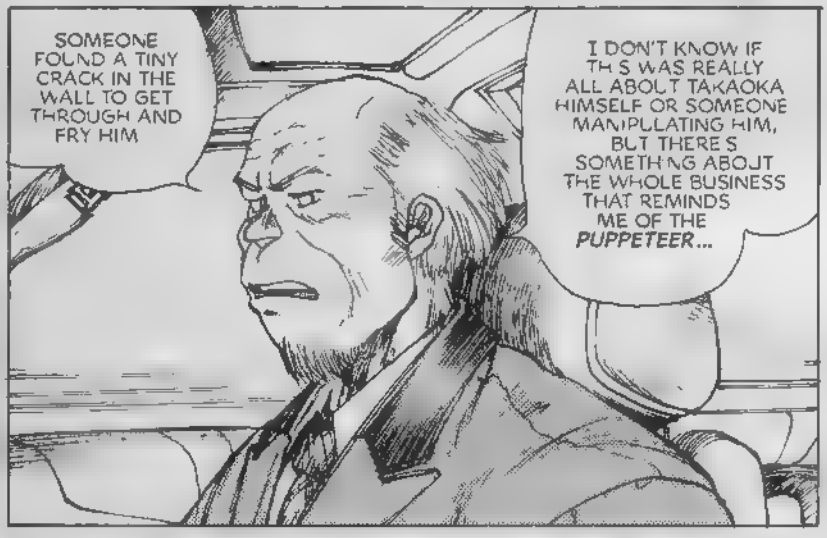

*FX: HONK
*FX: SCREECH
IDIOT!!
No non-cyborg readers should ever try this
GOTTA MAKE AN EMERGENCY ARREST! I NEED ONE OF YOU T FOLLOW ME!!
HALT! HEY, TOGUSA! WHAT RE YOU DOING HERE?!
*FX: SLAM
TAKAOKA!!
WHAT THE...

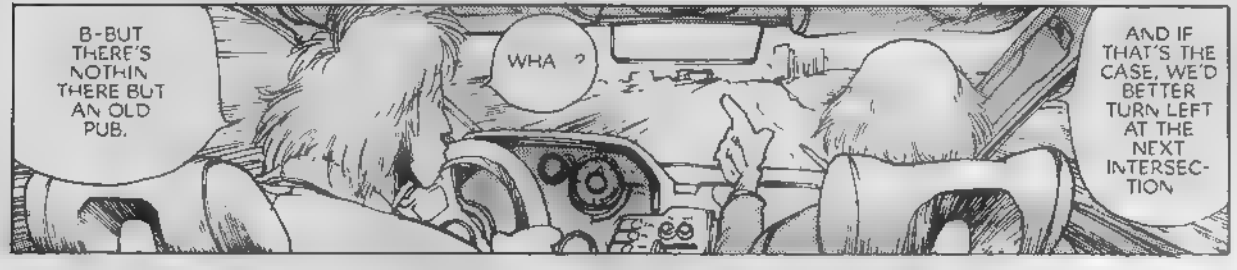

?!
DEAD?! WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
? ? ?
KAJIYASAKA TOSHIYUKI
1976 ~ 2031


FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MISS, YOUR FATHER WAS DEAD A LONG TIME AGO.
ALL THE CORPORATIONS, ALL THE TRADING PARTNERS, ALL THE POLITICIANS.. THEY ALL PRETEND THAT NOTHING EVER HAPPENED...
.I WONDER IF HE HAD ANYTHING VALUABLE LEFT TO PAY THE PRICE...
WITH ALL THE YEARS HE SPENT TRYING TO ACCUMULATE POWER AND MONEY..
WELL, I'M SURE THAT IT WAS WORTHY WORK TO HIM, MISS
GUESS WE WON'T HAVE KUSUNOKI NIPPING AT OUR HEELS FOR A WHILE, EH?
THEY SAY HAYASAKA'S LAWYER AND THE PHYSICIAN--WHO TESTIFIED TO THE EFFECT THAT HE WAS ALIVE--BOTH RECEIVED SUSPENDED SENTENCES AND KUSUNOKI S "COMMITTEE FOR THE INQUEST OF PROSECUTION" RECEIVED THE EQUIVALENT OF AN ACQUITTAL


DON'T FORGET TAKAOKA'S DEATH, THOUGH ..
THAT'S ONE THING OUT OF THE WAY. AND WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE PANDORA CASE FOR A WHILE, EITHER


.. AND THEN JUST WAITED TILL AZUMA JACKED HIS BRAIN INTO THE FIBER-OPTIC CABLE
WHEN TAKAOKA FIGURED OUT HIS NUMBER WAS UP MAYBE HE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT AZUMA WAS TAPPING INTO HIS CONVERSATION AND TOOK CARE OF HAYASAKA, REALIZING THAT SECTION 9'D BE CLOSING IN...


SOMEONE FOUND A TINY CRACK IN THE WALL TO GET THROUGH AND FRY HIM
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WAS REALLY ALL ABOUT TAKAOKA HIMSELF OR SOMEONE MANIPULATING HIM, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE WHOLE BUSINESS THAT REMINDS ME OF THE *PUPPETEER*...


B-BUT THERE'S NOTHIN THERE BUT AN OLD PUB.
WHA ?
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE'D BETTER TURN LEFT AT THE NEXT INTERSECTION


THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF TIME WHEN WE NEED A *DRINK*...
LUCKY ME!
DON'T MOVE!
UN-LUCKY ME!

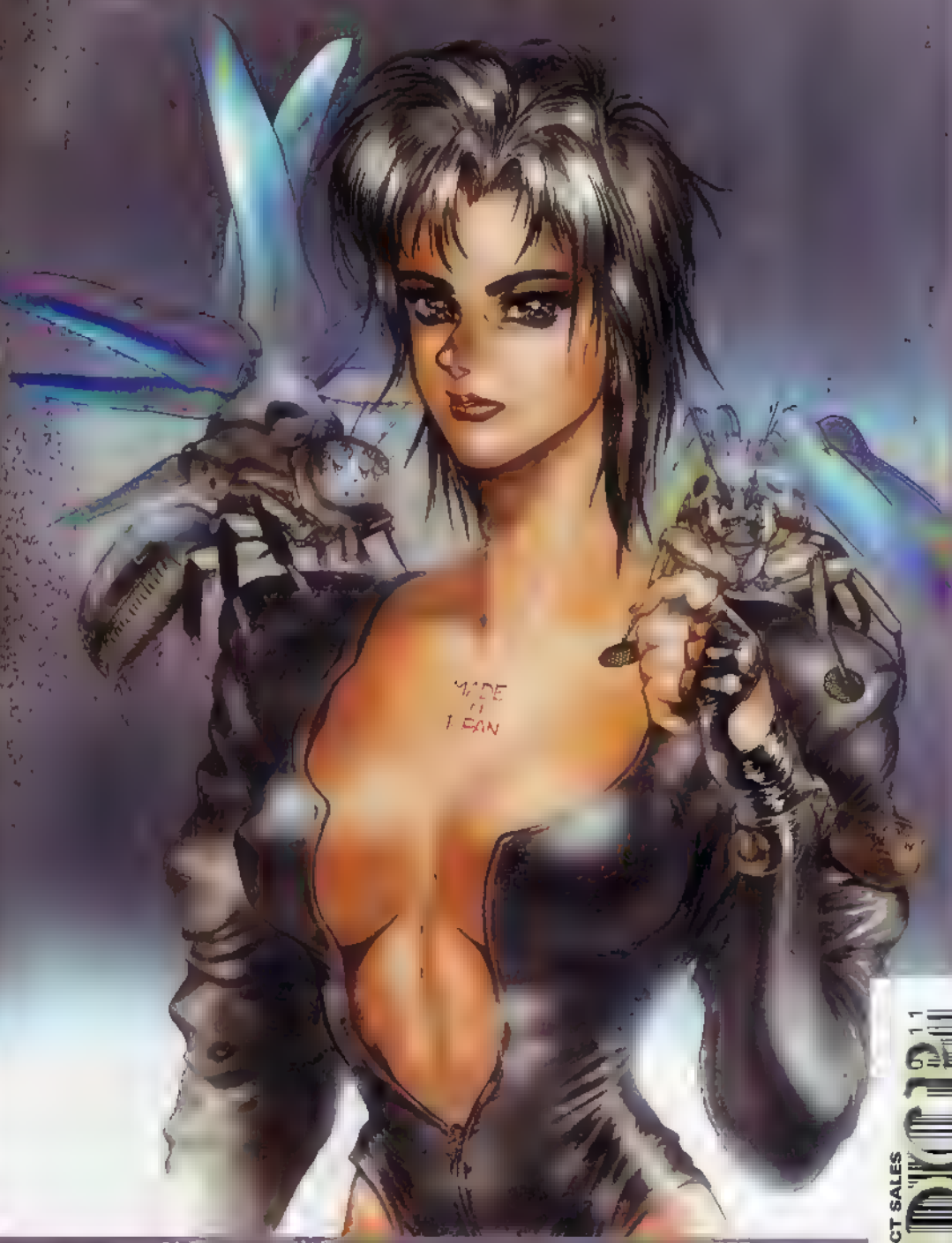
END: FAT CAT

GHOST IN THE SHELL

HUMAN ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊

1.5



SHIROW MASAMUNE

DIRECT SALES

GHOST IN THE SHELL
HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊 1.5

ISSUE 3 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

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またデッチ上げやギミックの「誤用」による二次被害には当方責任を負いかねます点を御了承願います。

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

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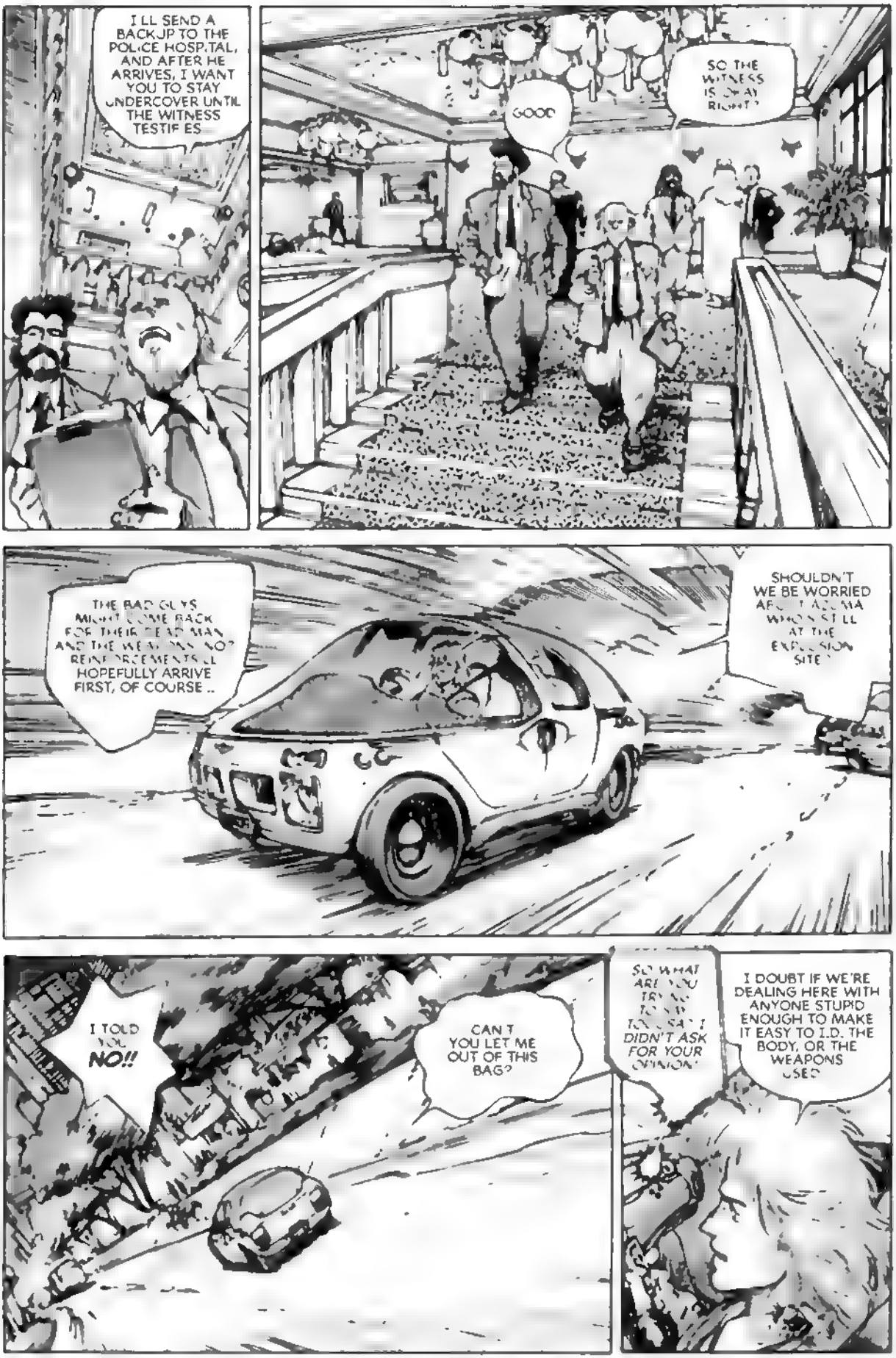
DRIVE SLAVE Part 1

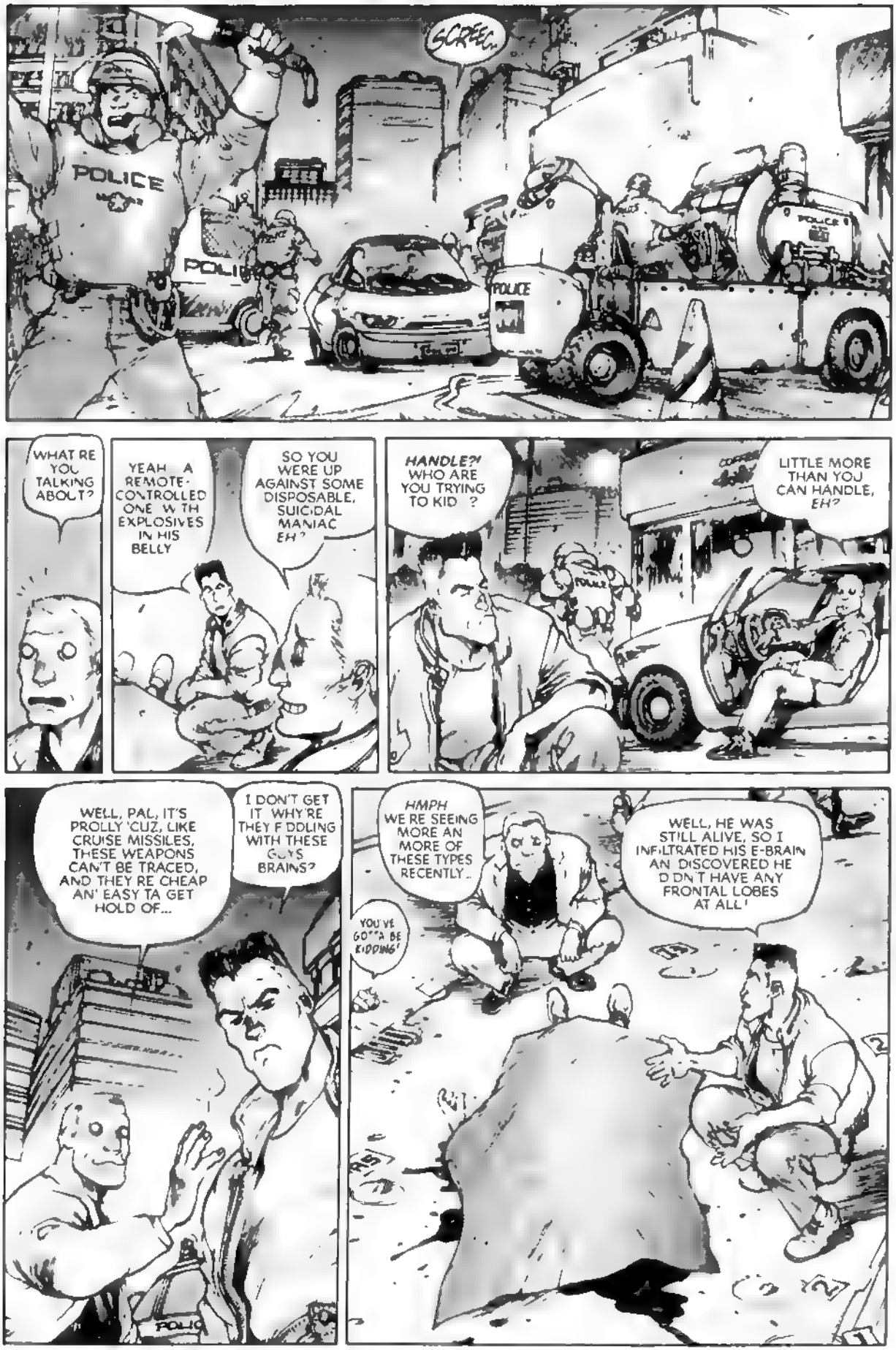

THEY STILL ON OUR TAIL?!
AW, SHADDUP!! AN' STAY STILL TILL I SAY IT'S OKAY...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, TAKE THIS BAG OFF ME! I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO SUFFO-CATE!
WITH ALL THIS CHAOS, I CAN'T DETECT THEM!
*FX ROAAR
GRR.
MAYBE YOU RE JUST A LOUSY MARKS-MAN, AZUMA...
YEAH, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT ENOUGH IF WE HAVE TO USE IT ALL FOR DEFENSE, PAL
AZUMA... YOU GOT ANY AMMO LEFT?
THEY MIGHT'VE PLANTED SOMETHING IN YOUR NOGGIN, DR. ISHIDA, SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA HAVE TO WEAR THAT BAG UNTIL WE HAVE TIME TO CHECK YOU OUT...


IF YOU'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY WE CAN'T SHAKE THE GUYS ON OUR TAIL, IT'S GOTTA BE EITHER OUR CAR, OR DR. ISHIDA, RIGHT?
JUST LOWER YOUR BODY TEMPERATURE AND GET AWAY FROM THE CAR, AZUMA!
*FX PUTTER PUTT PUTT
*FX FOMP
I TOOK OUT THE ENGINE SO IT CAN'T BE STOLEN...
WELL, THIS ONE'S MINE, AND IT'S NOT A CAR...
IF WE'RE GONNA STEAL A NEW CAR HERE, LET'S MAKE SURE IT'S A FAST ONE, OKAY?!
*FX KAFOMP
OKAY, AZUMA...YOU USE THE 6mm C-27A!
IT'S AN ARMORY, IN DISGUISE. DON'T TELL OLD ARAMAKI, THOUGH...
WHAT THE
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
The ridiculously enormous weapon Togusa's holding is a 50 caliber rifle. It's a type of anti-tank rifle, but it's sometimes used for sniping, too. I made up the details on this gun, but there are some very similar-looking ones in the real world. C-27A is the name for a '27 model Cebro compact 50m suppression firearm. The magazine holds six 25mm HESH shells.


*KABOOOM
GET DOWN, YOU IDIOT!
WHA?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
I DUNNO, BUT IT'S TIME TO CHANGE STRATEGY! LET'S SPLIT UP!
THAT'S THE GUY WHO WAS TRYING TO GET US A SECOND AGO! B-BUT WHAT WAS THAT GIANT BUMBLE BEE THING?!
*BZZZ BZZZ BZZ?
*BZZZZ BZZZZ

You can see from the illustration in panel 4 that Azuma's C-27A has a sight mounted on the cartridge catcher. It's one of those ridiculous things where the front sight is sold separately. And Azuma really should be using the cheek rest on the thing...


I'LL SEND A BACKUP TO THE POLICE HOSPITAL, AND AFTER HE ARRIVES, I WANT YOU TO STAY UNDERCOVER UNTIL THE WITNESS TESTIFIES
GOOD
SO THE WITNESS IS OKAY RIGHT?
THE BAD GUYS MIGHT COME BACK FOR THEIR DEAD MAN AND THE WEAPONS SO? REINFORCEMENTS'LL HOPEFULLY ARRIVE FIRST, OF COURSE..
SHOULDN'T WE BE WORRIED ABOUT ANDIMA WHO'S STILL AT THE EXPLOSION SITE?
I TOLD YOU NO!!
CAN'T YOU LET ME OUT OF THIS BAG?
SO WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY? I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR OPINION!
I DOUBT IF WE'RE DEALING HERE WITH ANYONE STUPID ENOUGH TO MAKE IT EASY TO I.D. THE BODY, OR THE WEAPONS USED


SCREE...
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
WHAT RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YEAH A REMOTE-CONTROLLED ONE W TH EXPLOSIVES IN HIS BELLY
SO YOU WERE UP AGAINST SOME DISPOSABLE, SUICIDAL MANIAC EH?
HANDLE?! WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO KID ?
LITTLE MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE, EH?
WELL, PAL, IT'S PROLLY 'CUZ, LIKE CRUISE MISSILES, THESE WEAPONS CAN'T BE TRACED, AND THEY RE CHEAP AN' EASY TA GET HOLD OF...
I DON'T GET IT WHY'RE THEY F DDLING WITH THESE GUYS BRAINS?
HMPH WE RE SEEING MORE AN MORE OF THESE TYPES RECENTLY..
YOU'VE GO"TA BE KIDDING!
WELL, HE WAS STILL ALIVE, SO I INFILTRATED HIS E-BRAIN AN DISCOVERED HE D DN'T HAVE ANY FRONTAL LOBES AT ALL!

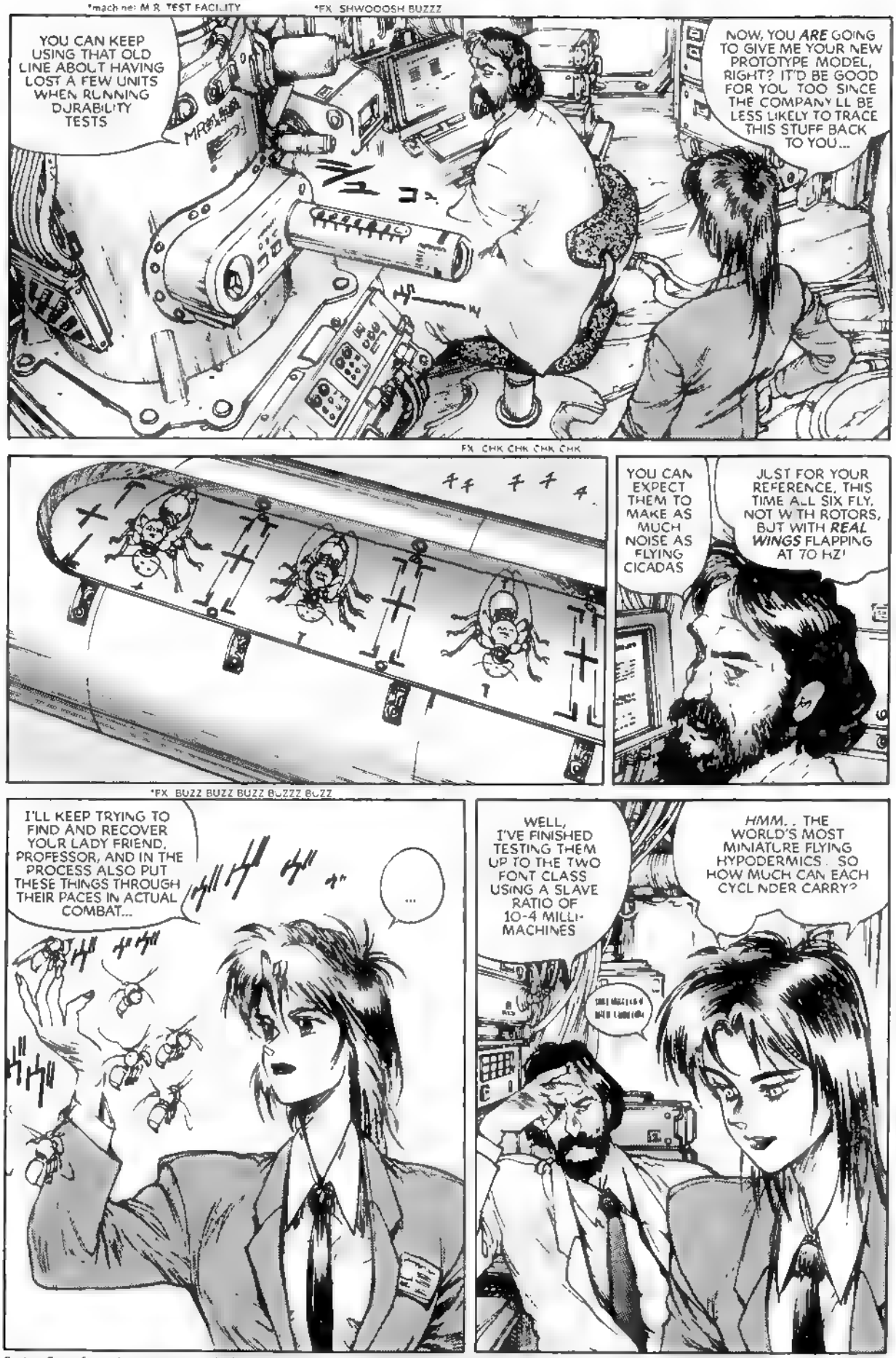

BUT JUST THINK WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR US TO BE CHASED BY ZOMBIES FOR OVER FORTY MINUTES!
IT'S EASY FOR YOU TA BE SO *FLIPPANT*, BATOU..
OUR TOP PRIORITY NOW'S TO PROTECT THE WITNESS.
TIME TA HEAD FOR THE HOSPITAL, AZUMA
ME? ALL ALONE?
CHECK OUT HIS I.D., AND FIGURE OUT WHERE THE EXPLOSIVES AND THE EQUIPMENT COMES FROM.. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO HIS BRAIN CONDITION
BE CAREFUL! WE COULD BE ATTACKED AGAIN AT ANY MINUTE PAL
WHAT THE--?! HEY, YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PUT A SHEET OVER THE BODY TILL WE FORENSICS GUYS FROM THE LAB GET A GOOD LOOK AT HIM!
POLICE
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER WHO IT IS. CUT OFF INFORMATION AND GO UNDERCOVER, AN' IT'S ALL THE SAME
YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS WITNESS, BATOU?
PROLLY FOR A TRIAL, YAH?
CHK CHK
DUNNO, AN' I'M NOT INTERESTED, EITHER...
BUT WHAT AN' WHO'S TRIAL? *THAT'S* WHAT I'M ASKING!
FX: VROOM SCRUNCH VROM


MICRO TELEMETER CORPORATION
MICRO
TELEME
CO.L.T.
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GO IN P3..
PROFESSOR KUROSAWA A MS. ARAMAKI OF EASTERN CYBERNETICS CO., INC. IS HERE TO SEE YOU
I'M JUST HERE FOR SOME MAINTENANCE ON THE EQUIPMENT. THIS CASE ACTUALLY GOES DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT .
LET'S TALK IN MY OFFICE
GOOD LET HER IN I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HER


*FX BZZT
*FX KACHANG
THE SHOCK ABSORBERS WEAR OUT TOO FAST, AND THE SUCTION PODS ON THE LEGS DON'T DEPRESSURIZE FAST ENOUGH
FIRST THINGS FIRST, PROFESSOR... THIS BUMBLE BEE HERE'S TOO BIG AND TOO HARD TO USE!
TELL ME WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?
DR *ISHIDA*? YOU MEAN THE CHIEF SCIENTIST NEXT DOOR?
FRANKLY, PROFESSOR, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GUYS WHO RAN OFF WITH YOUR LOVER ARE THE SAME ONES USING ZOMBIE CORPSES TO GET TO DR ISHIDA
PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE THE BEST HUNTER ON THE PLANET... IF YOU CAN'T HELP ME, *NOBODY* CAN!
NO PLEASE, MS CHROMA
I TOOK THIS JOB PARTLY BECAUSE I WANTED SOME COOL NEW HIGH-TECH TOYS, BUT WITH THESE KINDS OF PROBLEMS, I DUNNO
SO KEEP THAT IN MIND WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY
WELL, IT'S A POWER GAME PROFESSOR, SO IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW WELL I'M SUPPLIED
CHK CHK CHK
AND I'LL GIVE YOU AN INTERIM REPORT
WELL ADD ANOTHER TEN MILLION TO MY EXPENSES, THEN
BUT YOU *CAN* HELP GET HER BACK RIGHT?!
OKAY, OKAY I GET IT I'LL GIVE YOU THE NEW PROTOTYPE MODEL


..BUT THEN MICROTECH SUBMITTED THE RESULTS OF A SAFETY INSPECTION, WHICH SUPPORTS ITS SAFETY RECORD, TO THE COURT...
WELL, A FIRM CALLED NANOPLANT INSPECTED THE PROBLEM MICRO MACHINES AND ISSUED A REPORT ON POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS AND SAFETY ISSUES
MICRO TELEMETER CORP HAS BEEN INDICTED FOR SELLING DEFECTIVE MICROMACHINES... SINCE THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED IS IN THE ROOM NEXT DOOR, I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE RUMORS.
ACTUALLY, IT'S PROBABLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND
BY NANO-PLANT?!
HOWEVER, SOME THUGS'VE BEEN TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY, SAYING THEY WERE ASKED TO DO SO BY NANOPLANT!
..SO THE JUDGE HAS SET UP MULTIPLE TESTS, TO BE CONDUCTED BY IMPARTIAL THIRD PARTIES...
AT ANY RATE, PUBLIC SECURITY'LL SET A TRAP FOR THEM, SO WE'LL FIND OUT WHO IT IS..
MICRO TELEMETER'S TECHNOLOGY'S BEING USED TO CONTROL THE DEAD BODIES, BUT SOMEONE ELSE IS PROVIDING THE FIREPOWER AND EQUIPMENT...
SECTION 9 OF PUBLIC SECURITY HAS DR ISHIDA UNDER CONTROL.
BASICALLY, DR. ISHIDA WAS THE WHISTLE-BLOWER IN THIS CASE, AND MICRO TELEMETER'S AFTER HIM AS A RESULT AS FOR YOUR WOMAN, SHE PROBABLY JUST SAW OR HEARD SOMETHING SHE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT...
BUT IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, MAYBE I CAN DEAL WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT
I-I CAN'T BELIEVE THE COMPANY'D GO AFTER MY GIRL-FRIEND..

Section 9 of the Public Security Bureau's original to this manga. According to the information that I have on hand, the real Public Security currently consists of General Affairs (including special support troops), Section 1 (in charge of investigating student movements and radical activities), Section 2 (labor disputes and organized crime) Section 3 (right-wing activities) Section 4 (information gathering: statistics, etc.), External Affairs Section 1 (in charge of investigating non-Asian foreigners), and External Affairs Section 2 (Asian foreigners)


*machine: M.R. TEST FACILITY
*FX: SHWOOOSH BUZZZ
YOU CAN KEEP USING THAT OLD LINE ABOUT HAVING LOST A FEW UNITS WHEN RUNNING DURABILITY TESTS
NOW, YOU ARE GOING TO GIVE ME YOUR NEW PROTOTYPE MODEL, RIGHT? IT'D BE GOOD FOR YOU, TOO, SINCE THE COMPANY'LL BE LESS LIKELY TO TRACE THIS STUFF BACK TO YOU...
FX: CHK CHK CHK CHK
YOU CAN EXPECT THEM TO MAKE AS MUCH NOISE AS FLYING CICADAS
JUST FOR YOUR REFERENCE. THIS TIME ALL SIX FLY, NOT WITH ROTORS, BUT WITH REAL WINGS FLAPPING AT 70 HZ!
*FX: BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ BUZZZ BUZZ
I'LL KEEP TRYING TO FIND AND RECOVER YOUR LADY FRIEND, PROFESSOR, AND IN THE PROCESS ALSO PUT THESE THINGS THROUGH THEIR PACES IN ACTUAL COMBAT...
...
WELL, I'VE FINISHED TESTING THEM UP TO THE TWO FONT CLASS USING A SLAVE RATIO OF 10-4 MILLI-MACHINES
HMM... THE WORLD'S MOST MINIATURE FLYING HYPODERMICS... SO HOW MUCH CAN EACH CYCLINDER CARRY?

Section 9 was formed as a small-scale, highly privileged and elite organization, in conjunction with a crossover in categories of criminal activity. (An example of such a crossover would be Asian mafia and right-wing Japanese gangs that attempt to import illegal weapons and assassinate corporate VIPs, using funds procured from the sale of drugs, and are —*phew*— themselves sometimes infiltrated by the FBI, etc., etc.) Public Security specializes in domestic affairs, but on paper is positioned as an organization involved in international rescue efforts, etc. Members are specially selected from other groups, and thus no volunteers are accepted.


SHINAMA CENTRAL POLICE HOSPITAL
HEY, STOP MAKING SUCH A FUSS, DR ISHIDA! I'M TRYIN' TA GET THIS THING *OFF* YOU RIGHT NOW...
THIS ROOM BETTER BE TOTALLY SEALED OFF!
THAT'S CORRECT, DOCTOR
ER, SO YOU'RE FROM SECTION 9 OF PUBLIC SECURITY WITH A MR YOSHIHARU ISHIDA, HERE FOR A CRANIAL MICROMACHINE INSPECTION AND EXTRACTION?
WHEW!!


IN THE PAST THAT'S TRIGGERED MASSIVE RUPTURES IN SOME OF MY PATIENTS...
NO X-RAY CT SCANS CAUSE A HALATION EFFECT AND MAKE IT HARD TO SEE ANY MICRO-MACHINES AND IF WE USE MRI, THERE'S A DANGER THAT ANY NICKEL IN YOU MIGHT START TO MOVE..
WHA? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO A CT SCAN?!
ANY ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR SONOGRAPHY? YOU SAY NUMBER FOUR'S OPEN? GOOD. RESERVE IT, THEN
*FX AAAH
PSHH
HEH HEH
Y-YOU'RE GONNA ANAESTHETIZE ME? B-BUT
PUT HIM UNDER AND TAKE HIM INTO THE ROOM, NURSE.
*FX RATTLE RATTLE CLATTER
DUNNO WHO YOU ARE, PAL, BUT I HATE PATIENTS WHO MAKE COMMENTS LIKE THAT...
YEAH HOW COME YOU'RE USING ANAESTHESIA?
*FX BZZZZ
BEEP
6 7
4 5
2 3
0 1
B2 B1
B4 B3

I don't mean to imply that nickel is the only thing that would move in the human body when doing an MRI. Other elements with strong magnetic susceptibility, from scandium to lead, would also be a problem. The author of this story (me) chose nickel here because it would likely be used near the brain in cromachines and transformers. Nickel-titanium alloys and grade 316 stainless steel would also present the most problems with biocompatibility. I've never done any experiments in this regard, of course, or even designed any micromachines. And what the doctor refers to as "nickel" here is in reality probably the ferromagnetic material NiO-Fe2O3. (Ferrites are, of course, used in stuff like high-frequency transformers and magnetic recording devices.)


's go SHINHAMA CENTRAL POLICE HOSPITAL
SCREECH
新浜中央警察病院
!
THEN WE'VE GOTTA KEEP MOVING AND CHANGE CARS!!
WE'VE LED THE ENEMY STRAIGHT TO OUR WITNESS!!
SHIT! WE'VE BEEN HOOKED BY WIRED INSEC-TRONS!!
WHAT THE--?!

Insectrons: genera name (made up, of course) given to insect like robots ranging in size from several millimeters to severa centimeters
Micromachining s currently a hot field of research and there's a great deal of pa that has application in the development of insect pest eradication or performance of maintenance procedures. Biography interfaces and vessels are applications are reported already in use. In addition, such machining applications some solid state physics are also applicable to genetically engineered bio organisms to accomplish similar tasks. Rather than refer to robots in this case I probably should just say devices


WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TA CALL ME
TA MOVE THE WITNESS
ARE YOU NUTS?
YOU MEAN WE SHOULD PRETEND LIKE WE JUST "HAPPENED" TO BE DRIVING BY THE FRONT OF
MINUTES..
THE TWO OF 'EM
WITNESS IS
HMPH

on the previous page, like real spider threads, these are "extracted" from a tank in the belly of the tiny robot. But that doesn't

Actual spider theads, by the way, are created from a protein matter called fibroin, and are said to have greater elasticity and tensile strength than nylon



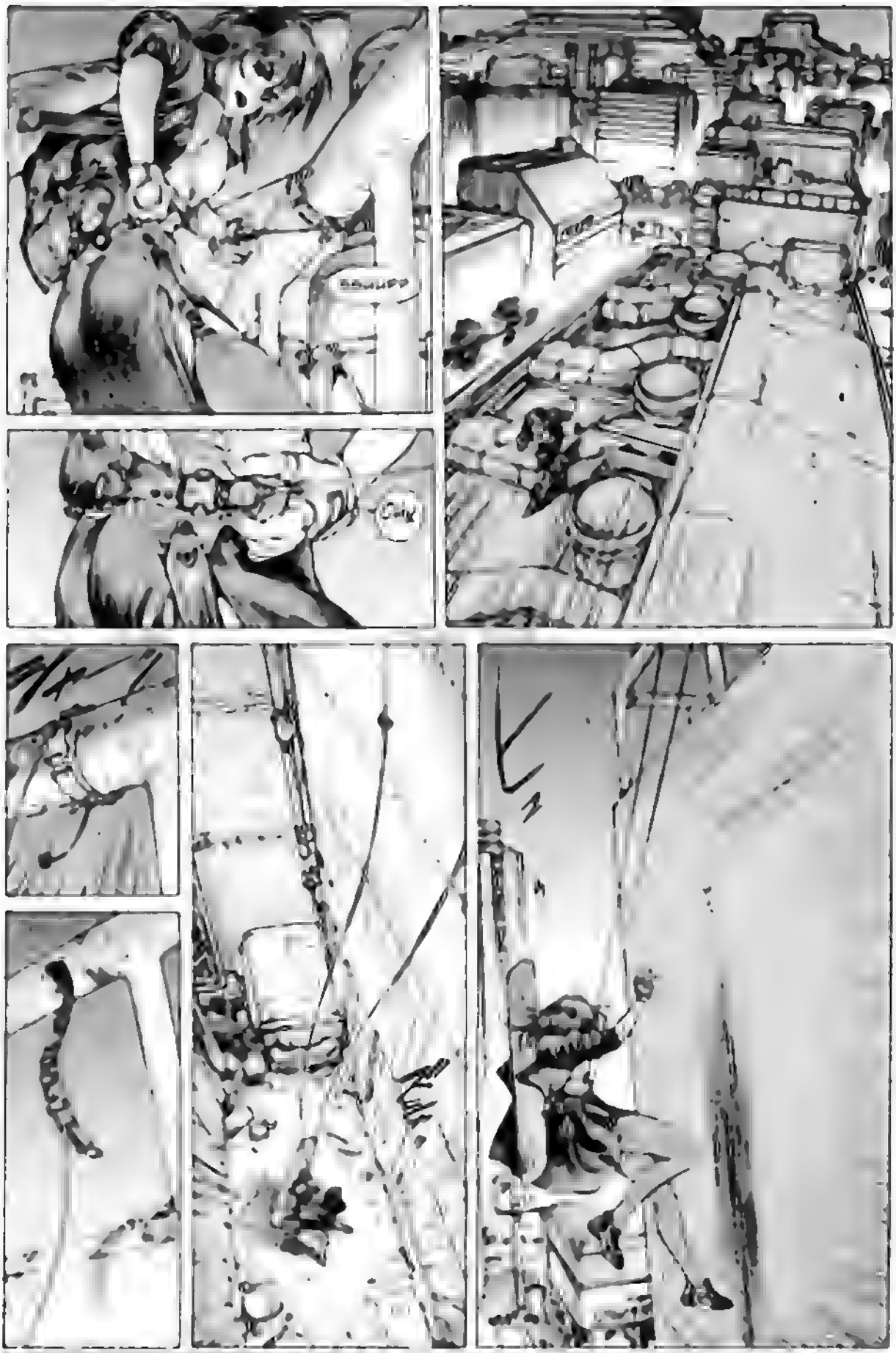
except during lane changes or in pedestrian crossings. (Of course the thread would be used up faster.) For tracking another vehicle at a distance of one kilometer or so, this might do the trick. (Of course, the insectron's tank capacity would be an issue, but the *nephilia clavata* spider can reportedly spin over 700 meters of thread.)


*FX FAK FAK FAK FAK
*FX SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK
WHAT THE ?!
AGHH!!
VROOM
SH-SHE'S SUPPOSED TA BE HERE ANY MINUTE!!
SH-SHE'S AN EMPLOYEE OF MICRO TELEMETER CORP!! SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY FEMALE, I SWEAR!!
S-STOP! S-STOP! I KNOW HER! I KNOW THE WOMAN!!
TAP TAP

If any readers wonder why the bullet holes in panel 4 of the previous page aren't smaller, it's probably because the bullets rotated slightly when they penetrated the car's windshield. Of course, the bullets went right through the rear car and smashed into the road, but even with their large caliber they weren't able to pierce the car's engine block. Given the distance involved, the victims wouldn't hear any audible gunshots or be able to see a reflection from the rifle scope lens (in this manga, at least).



Also, in the first panel on this page please overlook the fact that I drew the bullet hole in the windshield in what would be regarded as a slightly out-of-date style

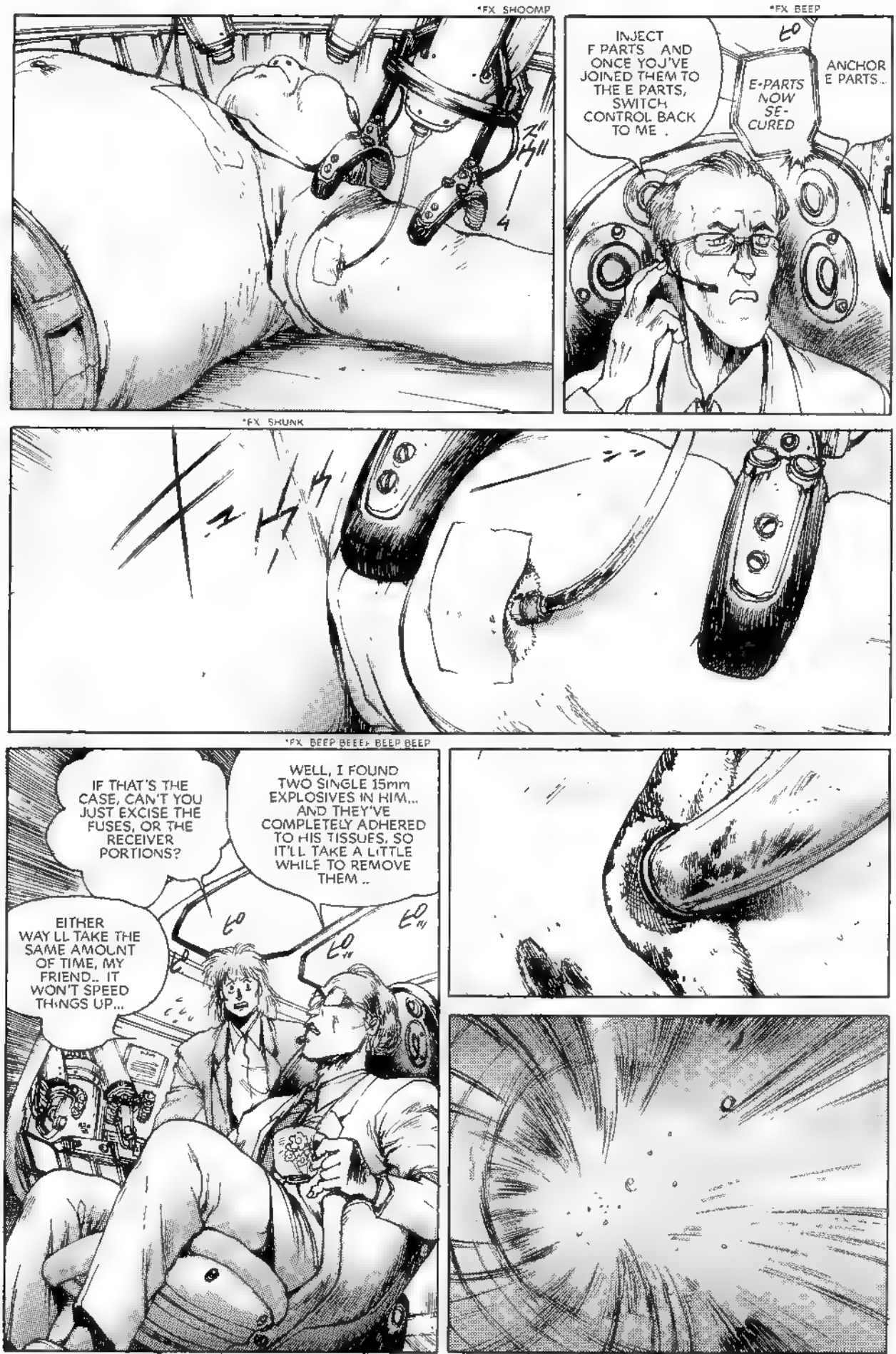


protrusion on the side of the magazine is a cartridge catcher. Assume that she doesn't leave any footprints because her shoes have spikes.


TOGUSA!!
YA KNOW WHAT, TOGUSA? YER ALL WH NE AND NO RESPECT THESE DAYS! RIGHT NOW I'M MORE WORR ED ABOUT THE WITNESS' WHERE *IS* HE?
YOU MEAN WE VE HAD AN *INFO LEAK?!* YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE OLD *PRO,* BATOU! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D LET SOMEONE *TAIL* YOU!!
HOW THE HELL'D THEY--?!
WE'VE GOTTA GET THE WITNESS OUTTA HERE *NOW!*
THEY'VE DETECTED OUR LOCAT ON!!
FX: THUD
GOOD THING OUR WEAPONS ARRIVED HERE FIRST!
SO, BASICALLY WE'VE GOTTA HOLE UP IN HERE TILL THE TELESURGERY ENDS!!
YOU WH-
WHAT?!!
SORRY, BUT WE CAN T MOVE THE PATIENT NOW... I'M IN THE MIDST OF REMOVING SOME EXPLOSIVE MATER AL FROM HIS CAROT D ARTERY...

In this case "telesurgery" doesn't refer to examining—from a central hospital—tissue samples taken from a patient at a remote location. It's an extrapolation of the sort of technology that currently a lows viewing—from another room of mages taken with a gastro camera In this story, a more advanced version of the same technology s used to navigate through the body s blood vessels and to send electronical y enhanced compound computer mages to a remote mon tor The system can also be used to remotely remove foreign matter (as long as it's not too large) from the patient, using sc ssors, bonding agents, staples, etc


WELL, WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMEONE USING STATE-OF-THE-ART WEAPONRY... AND THERE'S THE BIG PUBLIC SECURITY MANAGER'S MEETING COMING UP SO MAYBE THE OLD MAN'S EMPATHIZING WITH US MORE THAN USUAL
WOW... 9mm C-27A'S WITH MINI-GRENADES! WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT OLD ARAMAK 'D ACTUALLY SUPPLY US WITH THIS SORT OF STUFF!
UP UNTIL NOW THE ENEMY'S BEEN USING A FRONTAL ASSAULT APPROACH, WITHOUT GIVING MUCH THOUGHT TO TACTICS SO I FEEL PRETTY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT OUR CHANCES
GOOD THING WE'RE IN A POLICE HOSPITAL... AT LEAST WE'VE GOT GOOD SECURITY HERE, AND REINFORCED WALLS, TOO!
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
GOD, THESE GUYS MAKE A LOT OF NOISE... I WISH THEY'D GO ONLINE TO TALK, OR AT LEAST LEAVE THE ROOM
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP


*FX SHOOMP
*FX BEEP
INJECT F PARTS AND ONCE YOJ'VE JOINED THEM TO THE E PARTS, SWITCH CONTROL BACK TO ME .
E-PARTS NOW SE-CURED
ANCHOR E PARTS..
*FX SKUNK
*FX BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
IF THAT'S THE CASE, CAN'T YOU JUST EXCISE THE FUSES, OR THE RECEIVER PORTIONS?
WELL, I FOUND TWO SINGLE 15mm EXPLOSIVES IN HIM... AND THEY'VE COMPLETELY ADHERED TO HIS TISSUES, SO IT'LL TAKE A LITTLE WHILE TO REMOVE THEM ..
EITHER WAY LL TAKE THE SAME AMOUNT OF TIME, MY FRIEND.. IT WON'T SPEED THINGS UP...

TO BE CONTINUED

Regarding the "two" explosives—I arbitrar y came up with this number First of a , only a lim ted number of blood vessels are searched, because they have to be ones wide enough to accommodate the inserted explosives The doctor then injects thousands of micromach nes into these blood vessels. The micromachines proceed to detect relatively arge foreign particles (especially the meta ic portion of any signal receivers attached to the explosive material n the body), to adhere to them and then to emit an audio alert (of course, inaudible to humans under normal c rcumstances)

GHOST IN THE SHELL

1.5

SHIROW MASAMUNE

DIRECT SALES

GHOST IN THE SHELL 1.5
HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 4 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

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またデッチ上げやギミックの「誤用」による二次被害には当方責任を負いかねます点を御了承願います。

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

DESIGNER
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN BY
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

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DRIVE SLAVE Part 2



NOW LOADING . . .




BATOU! WATCH OVER THE WITNESS FOR ME, OKAY? I'LL MONITOR THE HOSPITAL PERIPHERY FROM THE DISPLAYS IN THE SECURITY GUARD'S ROOM...
HE DELIVERED THE WEAPONS, SO I HAD HIM STAY AN' HELP US OUT..
GOSH, ISHIKAWA HERE I THOUGHT YOU'D ALREADY RETIRED...
WHA?! ISHIKAWA'S HERE, TOO?!
..WHY DON'T YOU SPELL ME IN GUARDING THE WITNESS, EH?!
HEY! INSTEAD OF THE THREE OF YOU JUST HANGING AROUND THERE..
AND EXACTLY WHAT IS IT THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER ABOUT SECURITY?!
WELL, IF WE CAN JUST NAIL DOWN THIS STUFF, I'LL FEEL A LOT BETTER ABOUT SECURITY.. THE REAL PROBLEM'S GONNA COME WHEN WE HAVE TA LEAVE THE HOSPITAL...
HMPH
WH... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
M MAJOR?!
WHO? HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
!?
AGH.
WHO'S THERE?!
GO AHEAD AND PULL THE TRIGGER NOTHING'LL COME OUT! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D FORGET THIS...
TSK, TSK.. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT WEAPONS ARE ALWAYS DELIVERED WITHOUT ROUNDS IN THE CHAMBERS, TOGUSA?
AN' YOUR REACTION TIME'S SLOW TOO


DON'T WORRY. I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ILLEGALLY IMPORTED WEAPONS OR THE IMPROPRIETIES OF MICRO TELEMETER CORPORATION
JEEZ, MAJOR DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE BAD GUYS NOW!
WHAT RE ALL YOU SECTION 9 GUYS DOING HERE?! WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE THE ROOM?! YOU RE JUST GETTING IN THE WAY!
GRR...
BUT I GO BY THE NAME OF CHROMA NOW
YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT ME IN SECTION 9's A-1 PERSONNEL FILES, AZUMA
IF I TOLD YOU SHE'D BE ARRIVING HERE ANY MINUTE, AS AN ARMED ZOMBIE... YOU'D UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
B BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THE CASE WE RE ON?!
?
??
I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN RETRIEVING THE WOMAN IN THE PHOTO, WITH AS LITTLE DAMAGE TO HER AS POSSIBLE
WHERE'D YOU GET THE INFO ON HIM, EH?!
NOW, HOLD ON A SECOND! YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THE GIRL WAS, BUT YOU KNOW WHERE DR. ISHIDA IS RIGHT?
EASY ON THE SALIVA
I JUST NEED YOUR COOPERATION, THAT'S ALL..
NO, STUPID!
YOU MEAN YOU WANT US TO BUTT OUT?


AG AGH
WHAT?! TOGUSA?! YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN BUGGED THE WHOLE TIME?! YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!!
HE'S BEEN ON YOU THE WHOLE TIME TOGUSA
WHAT THE--?!
SHK
HEH HEH
YUP YUP
新浜中央警察病院


PRESENTS
WELL, WELL. LOOKS LIKE OUR GUESTS'VE ARRIVED


*EX TUN T JN
OKAY WE LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN THE OPERA-TION S OVER!
YOU TWO STICK WITH THE WITNESS!!
*EX TUN TUN TUN
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE PROGRESS FILE FROM HEAD-QUARTERS?
WHAT?! NOBODY EVER TOLD ME THAT!
DON'T FORGET, THE DRIVER S A REMOTE-CONTROLLED ZOMBIE!
THESE GUYS RE OVER THE TOP!!
EVACUATE EVERYONE IN THE HOSPITAL AND WARN EVERYONE IN THE NE GHBORHOOD! ON THE DOUBLE!!
UH OH SOME CYLINDERS FELL OUT OF THE TRUCK
WHAT THE--?
HAVEN'T PAID TAXES OF COURSE
SCUSE ME WHILE I CONSUME" SOME GOVERNMENT-ISSUE EQUIP-MENT

One doesn't normally use the verb *consume* with weapons, but ammunition and bullets are consumed, so we're not just talking about "borrowing" in the strict sense. And when we talk about "using" explosives, we're talking about a license to "use consume" them, and not just the license to handle explosives" often seen in manga, etc. Just as one needs more than a license to drive a car (one needs the car itself) – in the case of explosives, the licensed user is usually supplied only the amount of material specified in the license.


BEEP
BEEP
*FX KABOOOOM
AIEEEE!!
*FX ROAAR
*FX RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU'VE STILL GOT A CONSCIENCE, MAJOR
WHAT IS?
WOW. THIS IS AMAZING...
SURELY, YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN..
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT, BATOU
YOU TALKING ABOUT THE TIME WHEN THE MINI-NUKE WENT OFF IN MEXICO?
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS, WHEN WE USED TO DASH TOGETHER THROUGH EXPLOSIONS!
*FX KAVOOOMP
!?
*KERASH
*KRACK
ISHIKAWA! ACTIVATE THE BUILDING'S FIREWALL AND THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM!!
!!

The pair may seem to running in an odd way with their weapons, but it's because they're always concentrating on keeping their upper torsos properly aligned, and mainly moving their lower torsos. I know it would look "cooler" to draw them running bent at the waist, waving their guns about, but these are two highly trained professionals, entirely incapable of assuming a specific stance just for the sake of looking "cool." In reality, their stance is actually far superior, both in terms of stability and reaction times.

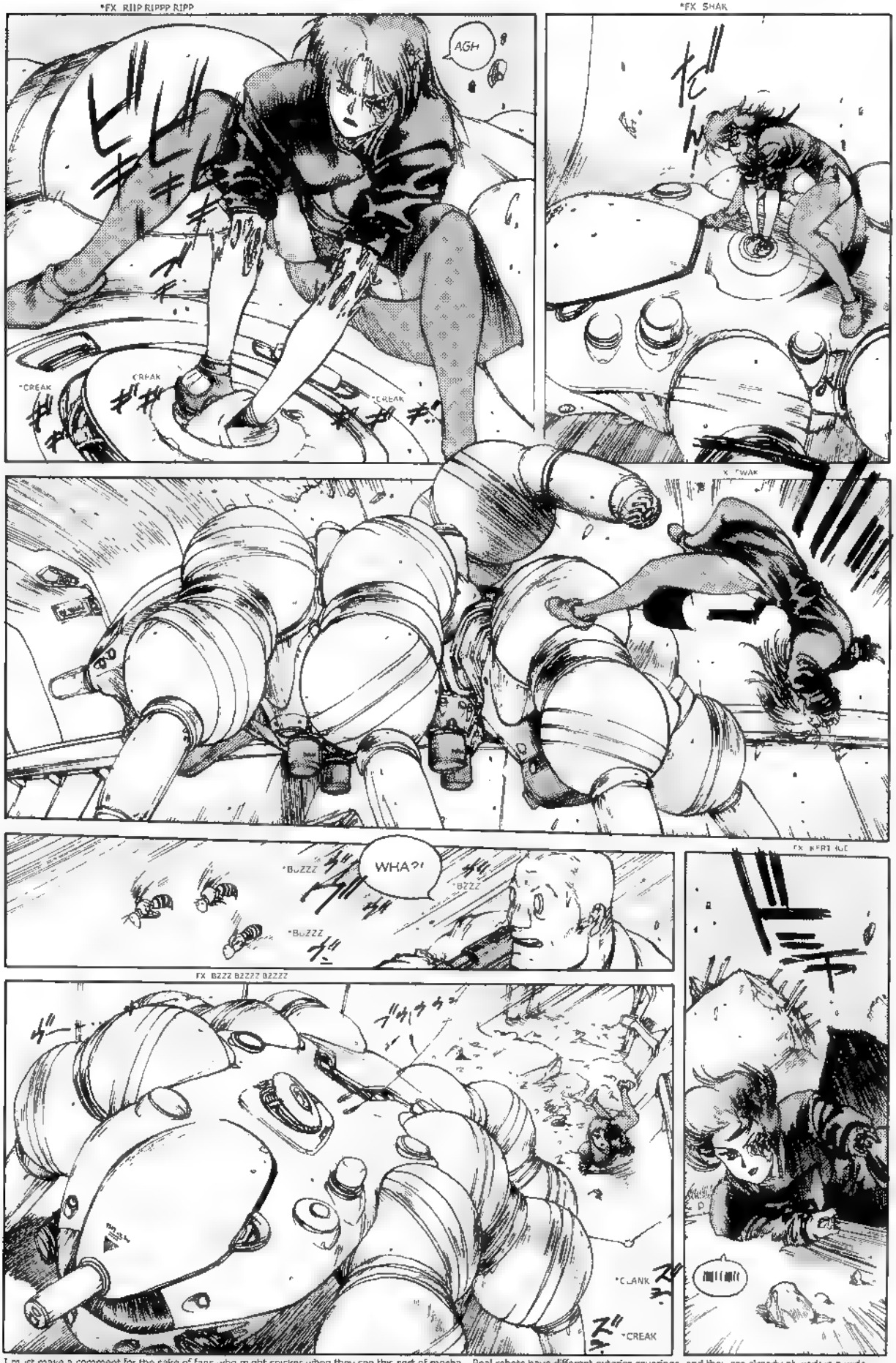

*FX GAGAGA GAGGAGA
*FX VOMP
HAAAAALP!
SHIT SHE ALWAYS TAKES OVER
AAAA
NO, YOU COVER ME!!
I'M GONNA INFILTRATE THE SECURITY COMPUTER AND ACTIVATE THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM! YOU COVER ME!
I GET IT CLOUDS OF DUST MAKE GOOD COVER
*BUDDA BUDDA
*CLATTER CLATTER
THEY WERE HAVING A LITTLE PROBLEM, SO THE GUYS IN THE A.I. LAB TOOK 'EM ALL AWAY!
WHERE RE THE FUCHI-KOMAS WHEN WE NEED 'EM?
I DIDN'T EXPECT THEY'D HAVE THERMO-OPTO CAMOUFLAGE. BUT IT'S A RELIEF TO NOTE, JUDGING BY THE SOUND, THAT THEY'RE NOT USING TANKS!
*FX KASHAK
*FX BUDADADADAH


*FX KRAK
!
WHAT THE--?!
REPLAY
REPLAY
I'VE GOT THE INFO WE NEED LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
WHERE'D YOUR BRAINS GO?
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE TITANIUM SKULL?
YA MEAN THEY WON'T EVEN BUY US TIME?
THEY'RE USING A DEEP SEA CONSTRUCTION ROBOT, BATOU! WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE WITH THESE WEAPONS!
DON'T FORGET, I'M ONLY AFTER THE WOMAN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH .
*FX FOMP SPAK SPAK SPAK BLAM


*FX SHWWWIPP
*FX FSSSSSST
*FX FSSSSSHHH
CREAK CRAK CRAK CLANK
YIKES!
THUD
WHY? JUST SO THEY CAN COLLECT OUR REMAINS?!
HEH HEH
WELL, WHAT DO WE DO NOW? CALL OUT THE CAVALRY?


*FX BZZZ
SQUEAK SQUEAK SHWIP
HAH!
SLWK
NOT A CHANCE IT'S JUST SEARCHING FOR ITS TARGET -THE WITNESS!
WHAT THE--?! I THINK IT'S OUT OF AMMO?
*FX BZZZ
LET'S BLAST THE GROUND UNDER ITS FEET WITH GRENADES... THAT OUGHTA HELP
CHK
NO NEED TO TEMPT FATE NOW..
BE HAPPY, BATOJ
HEY THIS THING'S NOT TAKING US SERIOUSLY!!
*FX FAWOOSH

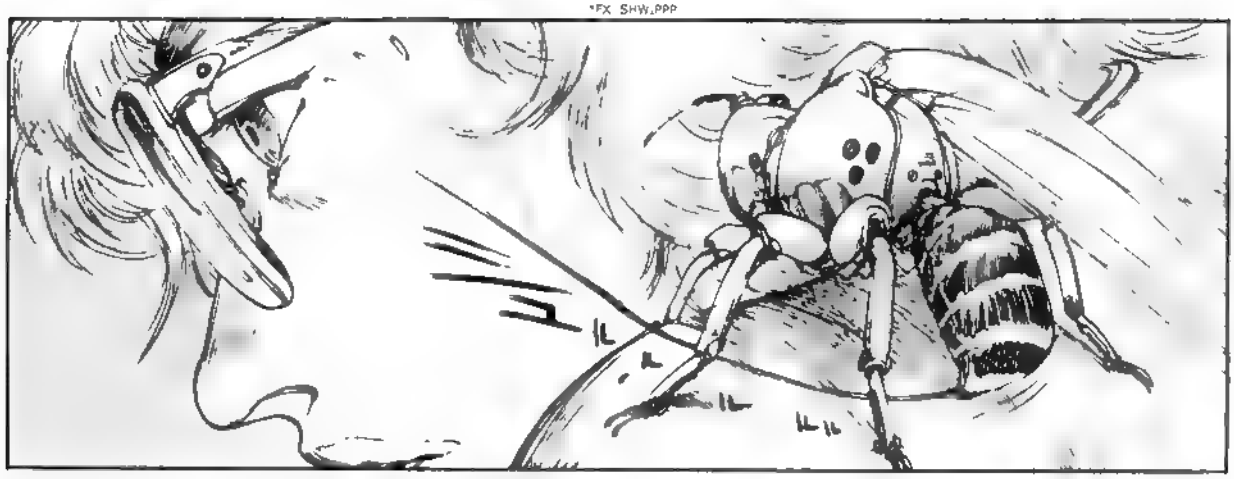

*FX KAVOOOMP
*FX KA HEE RASH
*FX CR AL CRACK T OO
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING? I CAN'T COVER YOU LIKE THAT!!
*FX FWOOSH
*FX RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE



I must make a comment for the sake of fans who might snicker when they see this sort of mecha. Real robots have different exterior coverings, and they are already at work in a wide variety of industries. So it's a little behind the times to say this one is "something out of sci-fi." The real-life robots that most resemble my drawing here are surely those developed for work in extremely hazardous environments—such as the six-legged model designed to work in undersea oil fields, or "Ken-Chan," which was developed to work in nuclear reactors. Of course the "robots" in this case are actually remote-controlled, so whether they should really be called "robots" is probably open to debate. Just for reference, although the word *robot* appears many times in the officially recognized list of J.I.S. (Japan Industrial Standards) terms, there apparently is, strictly speaking, no single, universally agreed-upon definition in existence.

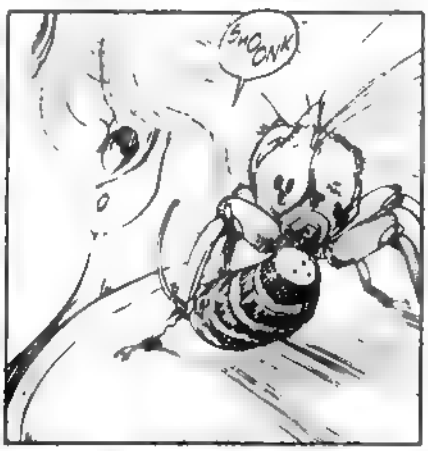

*FX LA LA LA
*FX FSSSST
HEH HEH
S'CUSE US
TAP TAP TAP
HEY, YOU KNOW I'M NO GOOD AT TRACKING PEOPLE
WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER THE PERSON WHO'S REMOTELY MANIPULATING HER ?
I'VE FOUND HER!! I'LL JACK INTO HER BRAIN, BATOU
BES DES I JUST CLIMBED DOWN HERE
CHK CHK CHK
BINGO

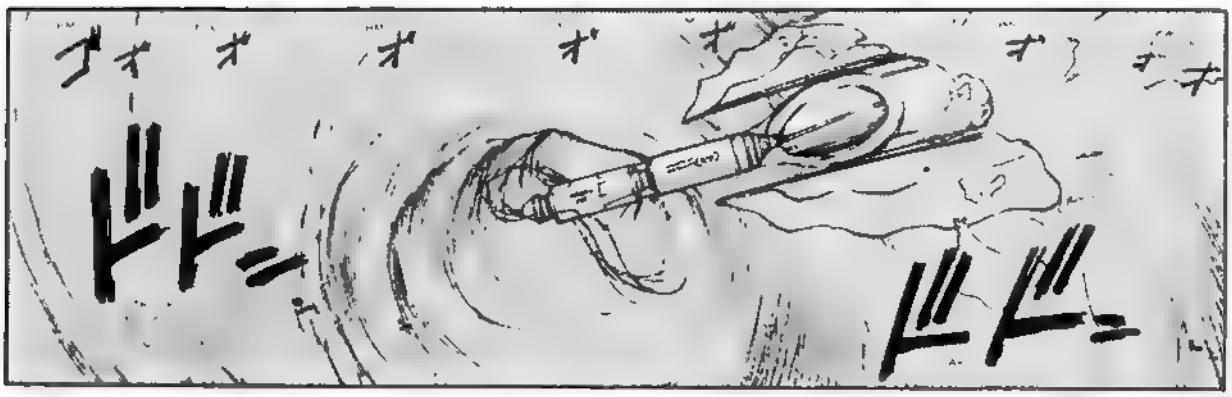
This six-legged diver mecha is not designed for truly deep sea work, and therefore is made of aluminum rather than titanium. The bee-probe robots are probably immune to the acid being used because they are made of special plastic resin and glass elements. When this mecha first appeared Motoko/Chroma referred to it as a "construction robot," but this is technically incorrect. It can be used as a robot, of course, but when there's a human operator inside it may be better to consider it to be some sort of an undersea "vessel." I know it probably should be remote-controlled. For readers who want to know more about robot weaponry, allow me to recommend the Japan Military Review Co.'s April 1992 issue of *Gunji Kenkyu ("Military Research")*.

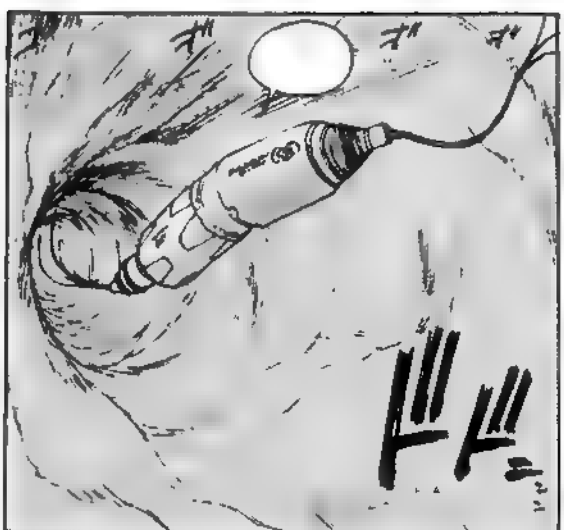


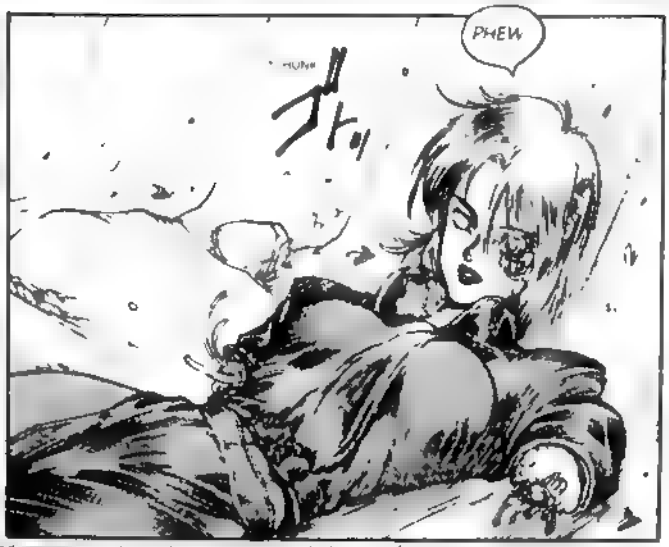








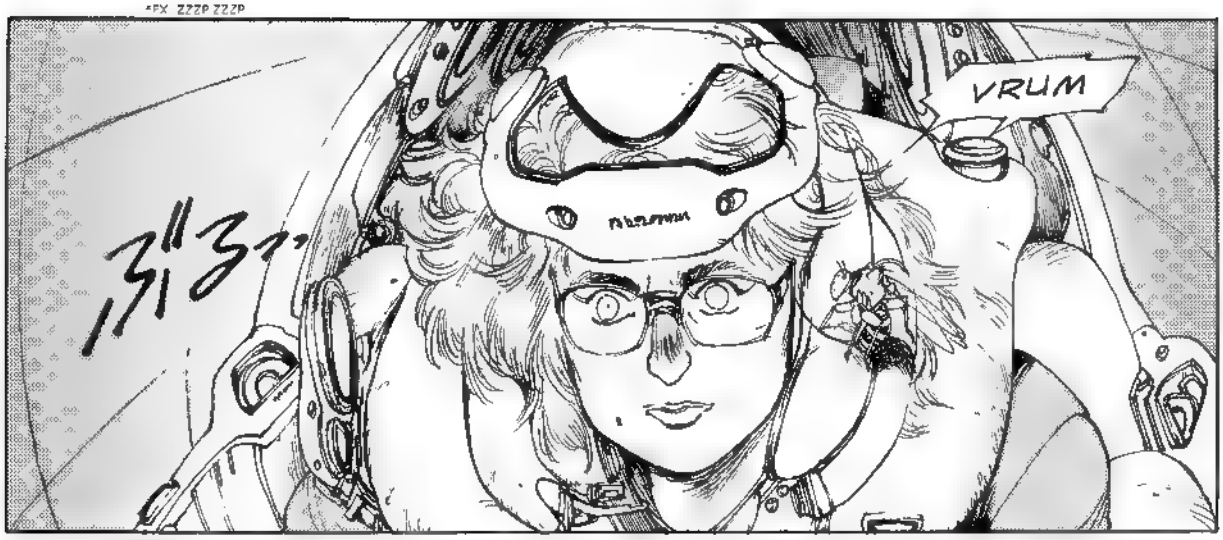




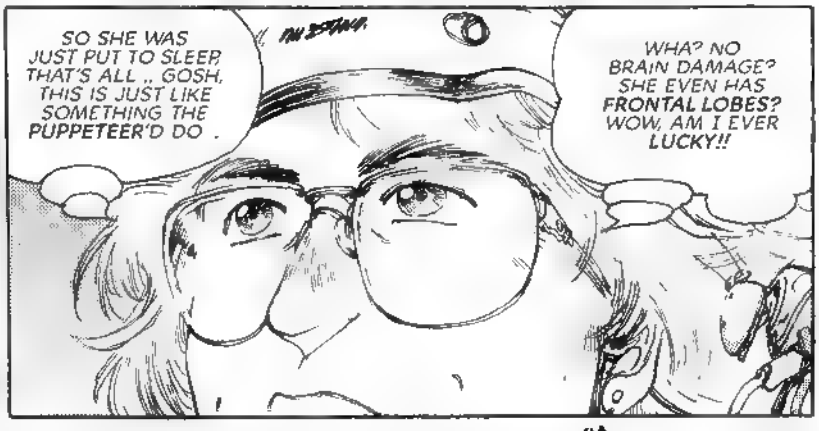
I could have shown red blood corpuscles roaring through the inside of blood vessels as a fanatical woodyet would with the sort of microsurgery I'm depicting here. Millimeter scale machines are used to red corpuscles which are nearly a thousand times smaller. Wouldn't be very visible. I do worry that the blood vessel I've drawn looks like some sort of gritty liquid. But what the heck. The forward part of the tiny machine shown here with the flagella like protrusions is designed to help the device navigate the blood flow, adjusting its length a so adjusts the machines speed. The one protruding out of the rear of the device is not flagella but a life-line. In the first panel on this page the bee-probe is shown getting the air out of its stinger-like tube.

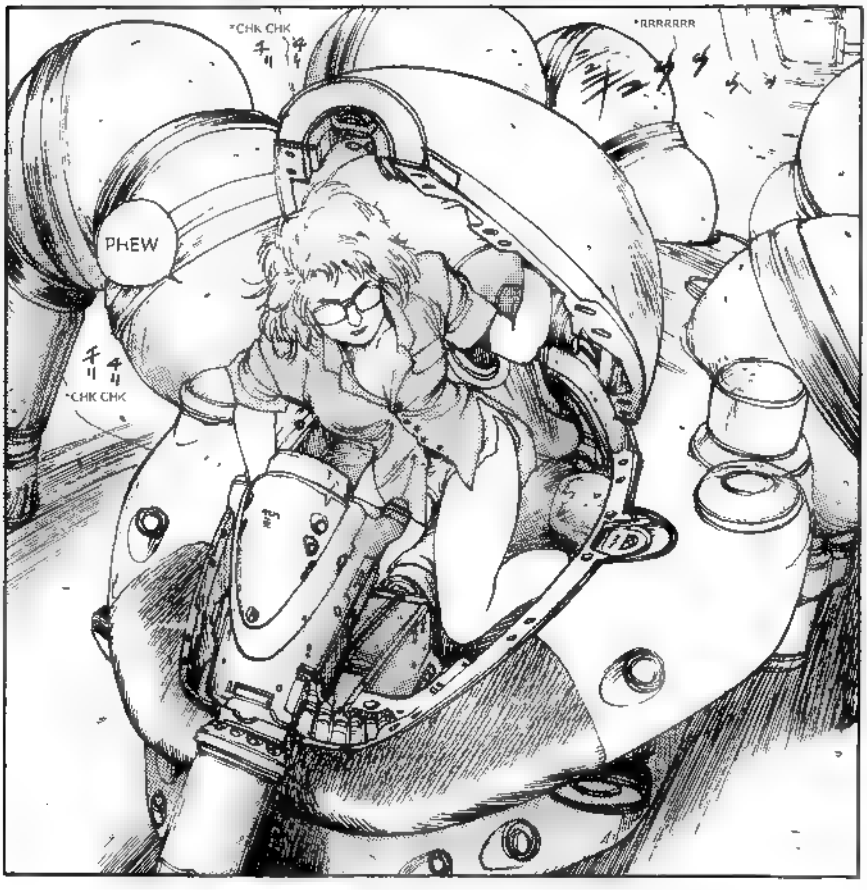

WHERE THE HELL AM I GONNA FIND THE PERSON CONTROLLING HER?
FX: WHEEE WHEEE WHEEE
FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE ROAR
NO TIME TO CHECK ALL OF EM ..
THEY MUST BE HIDING ON A NEARBY ROOFTOP, IN A CAR, OR EVEN IN A HOSPITAL ..
NOW .. IT'D BE JUST GREAT IF SOMEBODY'D PUT UP A HUGE TRANSM SSION ANTENNA SOME-WHERE
I'LL START SEARCHING CARS FIRST
I'D BETTER HURRY OR THE MASS MEDIA GUYS'LL BE HERE
*FX: WHEE WHEEE WHEEE
*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE ROAR
FX: WHEEE WHEEE WHEEE

*FX ZZZP ZZZP






SO SHE WAS JUST PUT TO SLEEP, THAT'S ALL .. GOSH, THIS IS JUST LIKE SOMETHING THE PUPPETEER'D DO .
WHA? NO BRAIN DAMAGE? SHE EVEN HAS FRONTAL LOBES? WOW, AM I EVER LUCKY!!





*FX KACHUNK


YOU'RE LOOKING AT MY WORK THERE, BATOU. AND THE GUY IN THE PASSENGER SEAT'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS
I FOUND A CAR WITH TWO PEOPLE INSIDE KILLED BY A SNIPER. BUT WHAT IT MEANS, I DUNNO
WELL! WHAT A SWEETIE ♥ YOU ARE!
BATOU, YOU'RE A LOSER. I JUST WANT TO BE NICE AND TELL YOU THAT I'VE TAKEN THE MECHA-TANK OUT OF COMMISSION.
!
YOU MEAN SOMEBODY WAS SENDING SIGNALS FROM A COMM SATELLITE VIA THIS CAR?!
SHIT! I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!


*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE ROAR
ME AND AZUMA ARE GONNA GO INTO HIDING WITH THE WITNESS, SO THE REST S UP TO YOU!
TOGUSA TO BATOU! THE DOCTOR HAS COMPLETED SURGERY ON THE WITNESS!"
ゴゴゴゴ
AND IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'VE GOT THE UPPER HAND HERE, CUZ I CAN SEND THE CRIMINALS AT MICRO TELEMETRY TO THE SLAMMER...
AS LONG AS THE BAD GUYS DON'T KNOW WHERE THE WITNESS IS, THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HIM
WELL MAKE SURE YOU DO A GOOD JOB HIDING!
I MEAN, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN USE THIS TO GET TO THE OTHER CONSPIRATORS
DON'T WORRY, I'M GIVING YOU THE PROSTHETIC BODY I WAS USING BEFORE .. NO PROBLEM WITH THAT, RIGHT?
MAYBE I SHOULD CALL IT A "REMOTE CONTROLLED ROBOT"?
!
ウルトラ..
WH WHAT THE--?!
YO, BATOU I'M TAKING OFF WITH THIS WOMAN HERE, OKAY ?
*FX: RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE


ANYWAY, I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS TO THE CHIEF SO YOU OWE ME ON THIS ONE OKAY?!
AN YOU KNOW HOW INFLEXIBLE THESE FORMER COP GUYS ARE
AHUM.
WELL, IT'S NOT ME BUT TOGUSA WHO'S GOTTA F LE THE REPORT
HEY, I'M ALSO USING COMM SATELLITES AND RELAY CARS NO WAY I'M GONNA TELL YOU WHERE I REALLY AM!
NON NON MONSIEUR
INTRODUCE ME SOME T ME OKAY?
YOUR REAL BODY'S PROLLY FROLICKING IN SOME SOUTH SEA PARAD SE NOW, RIGHT?
AN' IF ANY BRAIN-WAVE D C 'AKE P A E WHA' D I DOW
*FX ROAR
HEY THOSE ARE MY LINES PAL NOT YOURS!!
WELL, IF YOU EVER WANNA FIND THE GUYS PULLING THE LEVERS BEHIND THE CURTAINS ON THIS CASE, CALL ME, HOKAY? I'LL HELP YA OUT!


P

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攻殻機動隊



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LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITED BY
CHRIS WARNER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

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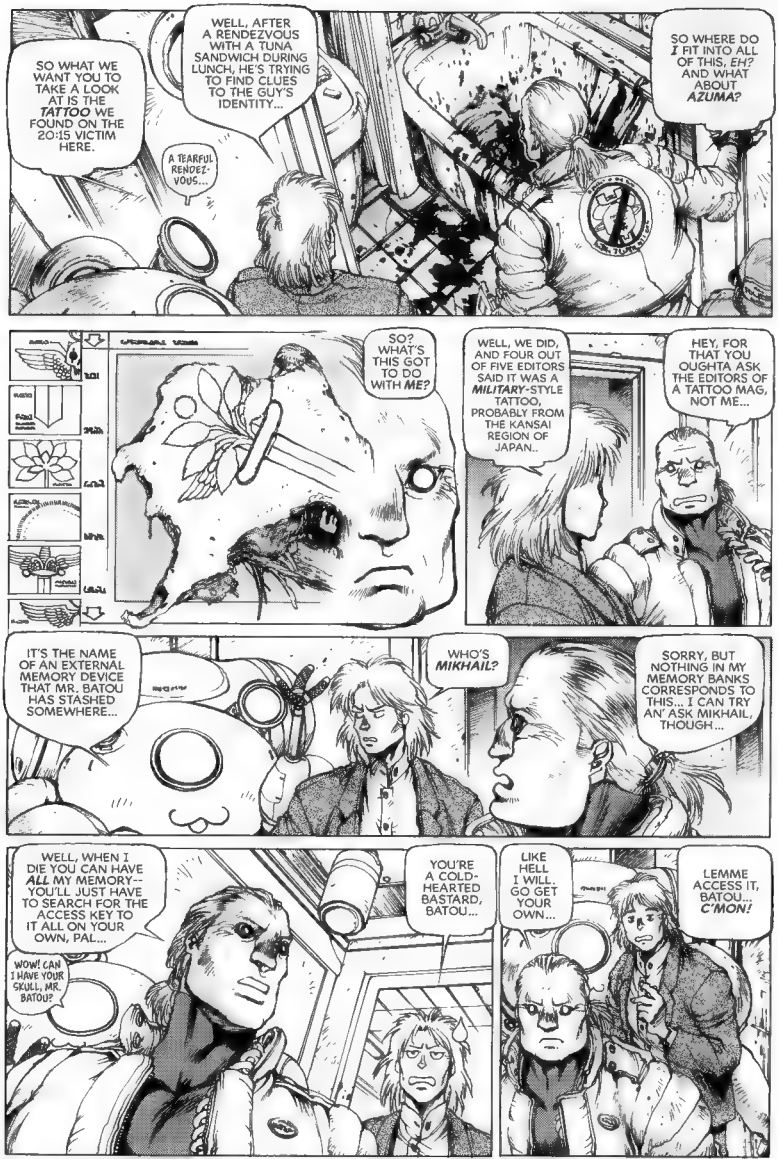

AH, DON'T TELL ME... NOT ANOTHER PROHIBITED ACTION?
UM, I HEARD THAT THE CHIEF WAS S'POSED TO BE HERE...
WELL, HE WAS UNTIL A MINUTE AGO...
AH, SORRY... THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT'S PROHIBITED..
WHAT'YA SAY WE HOOK UP CPUS IN A PARALLEL CONFIGURATION ABOUT THIRTY-FOUR HOURS FROM NOW, HEY?
KNOW WHAT, PROTO...? YOU NEED A BETTER SENSE OF HUMOR...
I WANT YOU TO CHECK THE OPERATOR IN HALLWAY THIRTY-FOUR... HER NAME TAG'S NUMBER EIGHTEEN!
LAB HERE... LISTEN, CODE SEVEN'S ONLY FOR EMERGENCIES!
KOHL TO LAB...
SURE... HE'S STILL IN MY BED...
S'CUSE ME.. YOU KNOW WHERE THE CHIEF IS?


HEY, INFO ON ANOTHER DEAD BODY'S JUST COME IN, GUYS! THEY WANT US AT THE SITE *RIGHT AWAY*...
WE'LL HAVE TO GO BACK AND RE-CHECK *EVERY-THING*, STARTING WITH HIS BASIC SETTINGS...
HE'S PROBABLY DISABLED ONE OF THE PROHIBITED ACTION SETTINGS AND IS OFF WREAKING *HAVOC*...
I BET THAT DAMN *FUCHI-KOMA'S* AT IT AGAIN...
*WELL, WHEN I ASKED HER WHERE THE CHIEF WAS, SHE SAID HE WAS STILL IN HER **BED**!!*
GODDAMN STUPID JOKE, IF YOU ASK ME...
SO, WHASSUP...?
HANGING OUT WITH A "WOMAN" DURING WORK HOURS?! I SWEAR, THAT GUY'S A *PROBLEM!*
HE'S DIVING IN VC-ALPHA RIGHT NOW...
I LOCATED *BATOU*, CHIEF...
AFTER ALL... WE'VE GOT TO RESPECT AN INDIVIDUAL'S *RIGHT TO PRIVACY*...
NO... NO NEED TO TELL HIM THAT, UNLESS IT'S SOME AGENT ON AN OPERATION, SETTING HIM UP...
GOSH, CHIEF... AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL BATOU THAT THE "WOMAN" HE'S TRYING TO SEDUCE IS REALLY A NINETY-FIVE YEAR OLD *MAN*?


WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? IT'S JUST TWO PROSTHETIC BODIES...AND WE WOULDN'T LOOK ANY DIFFERENT THAN WE DO IN THIS ON-LINE STATE...
P-PLEASE... DON'T ASK ME THAT...
...
GOSH, LOFFA, HOW COME WE CAN'T MEET OFF-LINE, HUH?
AH...CHIEF...? NO ONE WAS FOLLOWING ME, SO I HAD TA FIGURE OUT SOME WAY TA KILL TIME...
SO WHAT'S UP, BATOU...? WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYING DECOY IN SOME OF THE TAILING EXERCISES?
HMPH...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP, BATOU! I NEED YOU HERE, NOW! THERE'S WORK TO DO!
TO TELL THE TRUTH, CHIEF... I'M REALLY NOT CUT OUT TO TEACH PEOPLE HOW TA TAIL THE BAD GUYS...

The reference to "off-line" here means that Batou wants to meet the woman(?) outside of e-brain space, in the physical world. "On-line" means within e-brain space. Meeting off-line in the physical world doesn't mean that Batou would instantly know Loffa's real sex or age, but "she's" nonetheless afraid he'd figure it out from seeing the environment in which "she" lives, or from "her" friends...


HEY! WATCH IT!
YAH! I FOUND A WAY IN
SO, IN A NUTSHELL... THAT'S WHY I'M HERE...
AH...YOU POOR BASTARD...
THE BODY WAS DISCOVERED HERE 132 MINUTES AGO, AN' I ARRIVED FORTY-SEVEN MINUTES AGO... WANNA SEE THE VIDEO?
YEAH... LEMME SEE! LEMME SEE!!!
WELL, FIFTY-TWO HOURS AGO, AN ILLEGAL ARMS DEALER THE POLICE HAD UNDER SURVEILLANCE WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED HERE, IN THE EXACT SAME WAY AS IN A PREVIOUS CASE...
KIND OF A BLOODY MESS HERE, NO? WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
WELL, IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY FOR SURE, BUT WE'RE PURSUING THE CASE ON THE ASSUMPTION IT'S SOME KIND OF HEAVY-HANDED MESSAGE BEING SENT TO AN ARMS DEALER, OR SOME KIND OF STRUGGLE, OR AN ACT OF REVENGE...
AMAZING THE WAY THINGS BREAK DOWN THESE DAYS.
SO IT'S EITHER A COPY-CAT OR A REVENGE CASE, DONE BY A PERVERT... NOT MY SPECIALTY, PAL...
THE WEAPONS USED INCLUDE AN ELECTRIC DRILL AND THE KITCHEN MIXER... THE BODY'S SO HEAVILY MUTILATED THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO I.D. IT YET...
DON'T LET THAT STUPID FUCKI KOMA IN HERE!
HEY, WATCH YOUR FUCKIN' LANGUAGE IN THE PRESENCE OF A LADY!
UGH...
OH...


SO WHAT WE WANT YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT IS THE TATTOO WE FOUND ON THE 20:15 VICTIM HERE.
WELL, AFTER A RENDEZVOUS WITH A TUNA SANDWICH DURING LUNCH, HE'S TRYING TO FIND CLUES TO THE GUY'S IDENTITY...
A TEARFUL RENDEZ-VOUS...
SO WHERE DO I FIT INTO ALL OF THIS, EH? AND WHAT ABOUT AZUMA?
SO? WHAT'S THIS GOT TO DO WITH ME?
WELL, WE DID, AND FOUR OUT OF FIVE EDITORS SAID IT WAS A MILITARY-STYLE TATTOO, PROBABLY FROM THE KANSAI REGION OF JAPAN..
HEY, FOR THAT YOU OUGHTA ASK THE EDITORS OF A TATTOO MAG, NOT ME...
IT'S THE NAME OF AN EXTERNAL MEMORY DEVICE THAT MR. BATOU HAS STASHED SOMEWHERE...
WHO'S MIKHAIL?
SORRY, BUT NOTHING IN MY MEMORY BANKS CORRESPONDS TO THIS... I CAN TRY AN' ASK MIKHAIL, THOUGH...
WELL, WHEN I DIE YOU CAN HAVE ALL MY MEMORY-- YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE ACCESS KEY TO IT ALL ON YOUR OWN, PAL...
WOW! CAN I HAVE YOUR SKULL, MR. BATOU?
YOU'RE A COLD-HEARTED BASTARD, BATOU...
LIKE HELL I WILL. GO GET YOUR OWN...
LEMME ACCESS IT, BATOU... C'MON!

The "memory" that Batou is referring to here is e-brain memory and not the sort of memory we refer to in normal conversation. Dictionary information, language translation data, business maps, authentification passwords, and encrypted files needed to access the net—these are all stored near the transmission gears in his neck. They are a type of memory, but don't ask me what sort of media they're stored on, how much capacity it has, and whether the data's been backed up or not... Not all data is stored in the e-brain itself.


SHIT... SEEMS LIKE NO ONE IN THE WHOLE NEIGHBOR-HOOD'S HOME!
UM, S'CUSE ME, FOLKS THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT, RELATED TO THE INCIDENT UPSTAIRS...
WHA?!
LET ME SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT FROM AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE...
AGH
WHO KNOWS...? MAYBE THEY WERE ATTACHED TO THE SAME MILITARY UNIT OR VISITED THE SAME TATTOO PARLOR...
SO I REALLY DON'T KNOW.. COULD BE A CUSTOM TATTOO OR ONE HE DID HIMSELF.
AH, BLAST IT. I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT THE FRONT DOOR...
THERE'S ONE OTHER THING ABOUT THIS CASE YOU'LL 'PROLLY FIND INTERESTING, BATOU...
WELL, THE TATTOO WAS THE SECOND THING WE FOUND IN COMMON WITH THE MURDER CASE THAT HAPPENED FIFTY-TWO HOURS AGO.

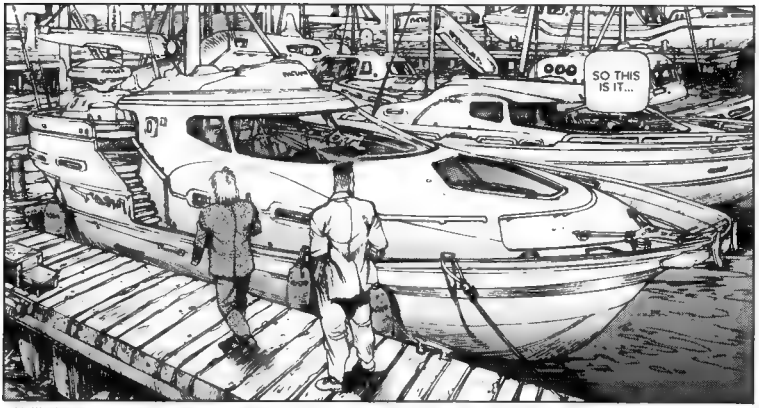

HE SPATTERED SOME BLOOD ON THE BATHROOM WALL, AND AFTER IT DRIED HE BEAT A RETREAT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING...
NOPE. BUT IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE BAD GUY IN THIS CASE IS A CYBORG MODIFIED TO HAVE ILLEGALLY HIGH POWER...
UM... I THOUGHT MAYBE THAT WAS FOR ARTISTIC PURPOSES...
SEE THE DOOR HANDLE? IT'S A LITTLE BENT, RIGHT?
AH, I LIKE THAT!
WE'RE DEALING WITH SOMEONE AWFULLY BRUTAL HERE, BATOU... AND THEY MIGHT BE A PROFESSIONAL...
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT IT...
...WITH A PRO, THERE'S NO EMOTION INVOLVED, RIGHT? THINGS ARE MORE CUT AND DRIED...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IF WE'RE UP AGAINST A PRO, I CAN AT LEAST IMAGINE WHAT SORT OF MOVES HE MIGHT MAKE... AND BESIDES...
Y'KNOW...WHEN YOU SAY STUFF LIKE THAT YOU SOUND INSENSITIVE BEYOND BELIEF... YOU MEAN YOU LIKE IT WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST A POWERFUL OPPONENT?
HMPH... YOU MAKE IT ALL SEEM SO EASY, BATOU...
AN' SO I TOLD MY NEIGHBORS, THEN, THAT IT WASN'T THE RIGHT DAY TO PUT OUT THE RECYCLABLES I WARNED 'EM TWO OR THREE TIMES... HEY, YOU LISTENING TO ME?
UM... YESSUM...
LICE

Illegally high-powered cyborgs are often made with a lot of muscle, so they often look rather conspicuous. In the *GITS 1.5* world, it's highly unlikely that any individual would have exclusive access to an advanced material or technology. In other words, whatever one person can obtain is also something that someone else can obtain... In reality, the cyborg in this case probably just over-twisted the door handle in his hurry to enter the room... Of course, the neighbors probably should have heard what was going on...


WHA? UH, SURE...
YOU LISTENING TO ME, TOGUSA?
...BUT MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOMETHING IN A PERSONAL COMPUTER. WE'LL HAVE TA WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE LAB FINDS...
WELL, IT IS AMAZING THAT THERE WASN'T EVEN A UTILITY BILL...
I ASKED ALL THE NEIGHBORS, AN' NOT ONE OF 'EM HAD A SCRAP OF INFORMATION... AN' THERE WAS NO BANK DEPOSIT BOOK, NO TELEPHONE NUMBER REGISTERED... NOTHING AT ALL!
Y'KNOW, IN THIS NETWORK AGE 'N ALL, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
NOTHING'S EASY, PAL... AN' BESIDES, THIS SURE BEATS HAVING TO DO A LONG-TERM STAKEOUT OF SOMEBODY, NO?
BEEP BEEP BEEP
I JUST DON'T GET IT... HOW COME THIS CASE ISN'T EASIER, HUH?
WE FOUND A KEY IN SOME CLOTHES IN HIS CLOSET... LOOKS LIKE THE IGNITION KEY TO A POWERBOAT... WE'LL SEND YOU THE REGISTRATION NUMBER AN' THE MOORING INFORMATION...
AH... THE LONG-AWAITED LAB REPORT... YOU GUYS GOT ANYTHING?

In this story, though people still talk about the "network age," wide disparities remain in the population between those who have information and those who don't or between those who can or cannot access the net. The role of professional net searchers or specialist research companies thus becomes extremely important. Azuma was ultimately able to easily estimate the utility bill of the dead man because he knew the address and could simply ask the gas, electricity, and telecommunications companies in the area.


BAM
WAZZAMATTER, AZUMA, DON'T YOU HAVE ONE? Y'KNOW, THE KIND YOU PLAY WITH IN THE BATH?
YEAH, THE ONE IN MY BATH I USE TO FLOAT MY SAKE BOTTLES...
WOW... WITH BOATS LIKE THIS, WE KNOW SOMEONE'S LIVING HIGH ON THE HOG...
WELL, HERE WE ARE... THE POWERBOAT MARINA.
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR..
WHAT'S WITH THE GUN, TOGUSA?
CHAK
THAT'S RIGHT. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH QUICK AND HAVE ONE...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BEER KIND OF GUY...


SO THIS IS IT...


DIDN'T... I'M JUST CAREFUL... ALWAYS AM...
HOW'D YOU KNOW THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN?


WHA--?!
THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE...






CREAK
CREAK
WHA?!


HEY.. BE CAREFUL, YOU IDIOT
NOBODY ON DECK... MUST BE BELOW...
DAMN!!
!!
UGH...
COPS?!
DON'T MOVE!!
!

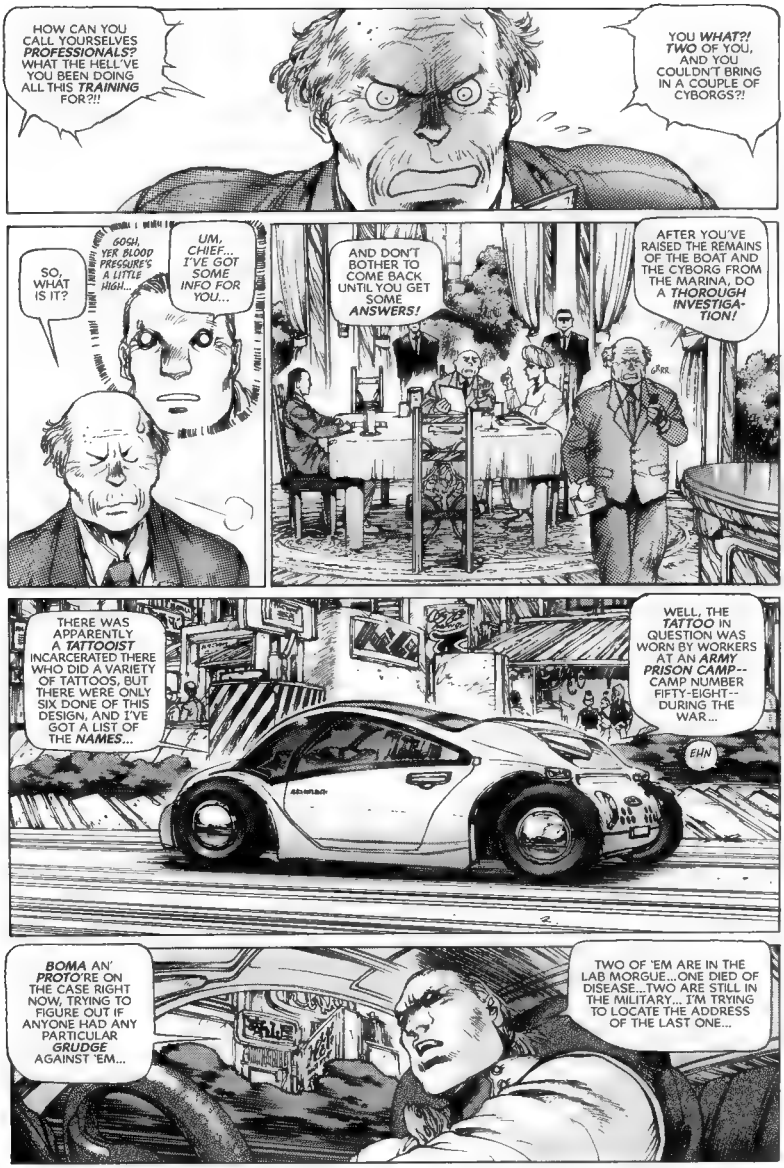

*FX CRUNCH
DAMMIT... OWWW!!!
*FX SHWP
*FX BZZ BZZZ BZZZ
UH OH...
ZZZZZWP
*FX KRAJNCH
*FX ZUMM
WHAT THE--?!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM


BOOM
*FX SHWIP
*FX CRASH
AGH...
*KRUNCH
!
*FX KRUNCH


AGHAH...
HACK
HACK
AZUMA!!!
SHWP
CHAK


*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM
*FX PWP
ACK!
*KRAK
*KRAK
*KRAK
BEEP
*FX KABOOOOOM


PHEW
KA FOMP
SHWIK
*ZOOM
*FX: CHK CLATTER FMP
WELL, TWO THINGS ARE FOR SURE...
SO... YOU TELL ME WHAT THIS ALL MEANS, OKAY?
*FX: CHK CRACKLE POP
BETTER THAN BEING LIKE THAT, THOUGH...
SECOND... THE OLD MAN'S GONNA BE ROYALLY PISSED!
ACK
GAK
FIRST... NOTHING GOOD EVER HAPPENS WHEN I WORK WITH YOU!!


HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELVES *PROFESSIONALS?* WHAT THE HELL'VE YOU BEEN DOING ALL THIS *TRAINING* FOR?!!
YOU *WHAT?! TWO* OF YOU, AND YOU COULDN'T BRING IN A COUPLE OF CYBORGS?!
SO, WHAT IS IT?
GOGH, YER BLOOD PRESSURE'S A LITTLE HIGH...
UM, CHIEF... I'VE GOT SOME INFO FOR YOU...
AND DON'T BOTHER TO COME BACK UNTIL YOU GET SOME *ANSWERS!*
AFTER YOU'VE RAISED THE REMAINS OF THE BOAT AND THE CYBORG FROM THE MARINA, DO A *THOROUGH INVESTIGATION!*
GRRR
THERE WAS APPARENTLY A *TATTOOIST* INCARCERATED THERE WHO DID A VARIETY OF TATTOOS, BUT THERE WERE ONLY SIX DONE OF THIS DESIGN, AND I'VE GOT A LIST OF THE *NAMES*...
WELL, THE *TATTOO* IN QUESTION WAS WORN BY WORKERS AT AN *ARMY PRISON CAMP*-- CAMP NUMBER FIFTY-EIGHT-- DURING THE WAR...
EHN
BOMA AN' *PROTO*'RE ON THE CASE RIGHT NOW, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF ANYONE HAD ANY PARTICULAR *GRUDGE* AGAINST 'EM...
TWO OF 'EM ARE IN THE LAB MORGUE...ONE DIED OF DISEASE...TWO ARE STILL IN THE MILITARY... I'M TRYING TO LOCATE THE ADDRESS OF THE LAST ONE...


*FX. VROOM
SCREECH
IF IT WERE ME, AN' TWO PEOPLE I KNEW HAD BEEN KILLED, I'D GO UNDERGROUND LICKETY-SPLIT AND TRACK DOWN THE KILLERS...
HMPH...
JUST JOKING! HEH, HEH! I'LL SEARCH 'EM ALL, MR. BATOU, HONEST!
YOU MEAN THIS CAR, TOO?
RIGHT. START WITH ALL CARS PARKED IN A 300-METER RADIUS OF HERE...
WHA?! CHECK THE *CARS?*
OKAY, FUCHIKOMA...I WANT YOU TO CHECK THE CAR LICENSE PLATES IN THE AREA AND SEARCH FOR *WEAPONS*...
CHAK

Re: panel three—Batou has recently taken to wearing his seatbelt while driving, but he still doesn't lock his car door. This isn't a Special Forces procedure, but something Batou just does on his own Of course, he unlocks his seatbelt before and after any gunfights, and he doesn't wear his seatbelt when he's guarding VIPs, either. In the final panels on the page, Batou is visually checking to make sure no one is in the house or in the vehicle in front of it. But of course, he still could be spotted anyway...


WELL, I WANT YOU TO PULL ALL THE ENGINE SPARK PLUGS OUT HALFWAY, THEN!!
WITH THE MILI-TARY?!
UM, THERE ARE SIX SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES IN THE AREA, AND THREE OF THEM ARE ARMED... ONE IS SECRETLY REGISTERED WITH THE MILITARY...
YOU SHOULD'VE RIDDEN IN ME, MR. BATOU...
SHIT... I SHOULD'VE REMEMBERED TO BRING MY OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE... WELL, AT LEAST THERE AREN'T ANY DOGS AROUND...
WELL, PULL 'EM OUT OF THE MILITARY VEHICLE, AND REPORT BACK TO THE CHIEF TELLING HIM WHAT WE'VE DONE!!
UM. . EXCEPT FOR THE ONE REGISTERED TO THE MILITARY, ALL THE OTHER VEHICLES HAVE ALREADY HAD THEIR PLUGS REMOVED, MR. BATOU, SIR...
NO TIME FOR THAT!
HX FWSH
WHAT THE...?!
*THUD
NO SIGN OF THE GUY I'M LOOKING FOR, BUT WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON IN THERE, ANYWAY?


KER-THUD
CRUNCH
BONK
*SWOOSH
*PWOMP
NO, WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE, KIM?
*CHAK
WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?
AN' I'D REALLY LIKE YOU GUYS TO *STOP* THIS STUFF...
*SHWIP
WHAT OTHER CASE IS THERE?
YOU MEAN YOU'RE WORKING ON THE SAME CASE WE ARE?!
YEAH, HE'S FROM PUBLIC SECURITY'S SECTION 9...
SOME-ONE YOU *KNOW*, KIM?


WHAT THE HELL'S KUBOTA UP TO, EH?!
YOU MEAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE'S BEEN INVOLVED IN THIS CASE THE WHOLE TIME, WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD TO US?
SO WE CAN CROSS ANOTHER ONE OFF THE LIST, EH?
HMPH... WELL, THAT'S NEWS TO ME...
FOUR DAYS AGO, A MILITARY DOCTOR WHO USED TO WORK IN THE SAME MILITARY PRISON CAMP WAS KILLED IN THE SAME WAY...
WELL, AS FAR AS THIS CASE'S CONCERNED, MR. ARAMAKI... NITTOU PUT ME IN CHARGE...
WELL, THEY'RE BOTH SELF-ADMITTED ARMS DEALERS... BUT THEIR STATEMENTS WERE SO VAGUE THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM ANYTHING YET..
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE PAIR YOU GUYS APPREHENDED, KIM?
...SO WE WANTED TO DO AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION, SECRETLY AND ON OUR OWN...
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN SOME ILLEGAL ARMS DEALS...
OF COURSE...
...BUT WE CAN LIVE WITH A JOINT INVESTIGATION IF WE HAVE TO.

Kubota refers to the head of the Information Department—the man with the beard and glasses in *Fat Cat*. Apparently, he has a good relationship with Aramaki... I should also point out that the band-aids Azuma has on are temporary and not really designed to treat wounds. They just ensure that his artificial skin isn't too exposed by his wounds...


...BUT WHEN THEY ARRIVED, THE HOUSE WAS APPARENTLY ALREADY EMPTY.
HEY.
THAT'S...
THEY SAY THEY'D INTERCEPTED COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE TATTOOS AND GOT SOME ADDRESSES OUT OF IT...
THEY APPARENTLY HEARD ABOUT TODAY'S INCIDENT, ALONG WITH THAT OF TWO DAYS AGO, AND FIGURED THEY'D RUN INTO A "*BUSINESS COMPETITOR*"...
SAITO AND NII ARE TRYING TO TRACK DOWN THE TRANSMITTERS USED... LOOKS LIKE THE NAJA WAS TRYING TO FIND SOMETHING... IT WAS A WIDELY AVAILABLE PROSTHETIC BODY... OTHER THAN *THAT*, WE DON'T KNOW MUCH...
WHAT ABOUT THE NAJA V6 THAT WAS ON THE BOAT?
APPARENTLY, NO CONNECTION AT ALL... THAT WAS JUST A BODYGUARD WORKING AT A VIDEO-GAME CENTER...
WHAT ABOUT THE CYBORG YOU RETRIEVED WHEN YOU RAISED THE POWER BOAT?
BATOU... I WANT YOU TO COOPERATE WITH THIS MAN HERE, AND TRY TO GET SOME INFORMATION OUT OF THE FELLOW IN THE MILITARY...
SO, OUT OF THE FORMER EMPLOYEES FROM THE NUMBER FIFTY-EIGHT PRISON CAMP, ONLY TWO ARE ALIVE NOW... ONE'S MISSING, AND ONE'S STILL IN THE MILITARY...
WELL, THANK YOU, BUT *I'LL* MAKE THE DECISION WHETHER HE SHOULD BE INTERROGATED OR NOT...
...
HAH, HAH... WELL, NO, ACTUALLY, WE CAN'T LET THE MAN IN QUESTION HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD... HE'S ON A *SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT* RIGHT NOW, UNFORTUNATELY...

One obviously can't use a secret code number as an options system when communicating with someone unless the someone is privy to the code in the first place. For security reasons, the code sheet doesn't exist (we're not talking about code cracking here). To prevent electronic communications from being intercepted or overheard, the best thing would actually be to physically meet the party with whom one is trying to communicate. But that takes time, of course. In this case, the transmitters were in the mouths or guts and attached to the most suspicious of the vehicles after their plates and owner registrations had been checked. I just haven't drawn the scenes showing the vehicles being toggled...


NO THANKS... I *HATE* HANDING OVER CASES BEFORE I'VE FINISHED WITH THEM...
SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST LET US HANDLE THIS CASE, *EH,* MR. ARAMAKI?
WELL, IN THIS CASE WE WERE ABLE TO APPREHEND ONE OF THE GUILTY PARTIES AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN ILLEGAL CYBORG, EVEN IF IT WAS DESTROYED...
...AND THE VICTIM HAS THE EXACT SAME *TATTOO* AS IN THE *OTHER INCIDENTS*...
UM... IN THE PROCESS OF GOING AFTER IT, WE CAME ACROSS ANOTHER CASE OF BRUTAL MURDER...
COME ON IN... WHAT'S UP?
CHIEF! SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT ABOUT THE T1P58 NAJA...
!
NOT AGAIN...*
YESSIR!!
SO WHAT'RE YOU TWO DOING? TO THE SITE OF THE MURDER... *ON THE DOUBLE!!*

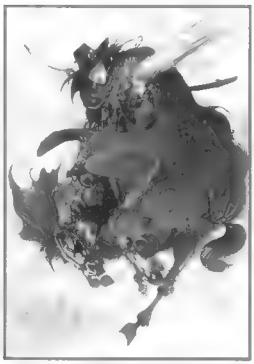
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GHOST IN THE SHELL

HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

1.5

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ISSUE 8 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

この物語に登場する様々な設定や解説や概念は全て妄想の産物であり、現実とは無関係の娯楽物です。服用を誤る事無くお楽しみ頂ければ幸いです。
またデッチ上げやギミックの「誤用」による二次被害には当方責任を負いかねます点を御了承願います。

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

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MINES OF MIND Part 2


NAW, WHY SHOULD I BE PISSED OFF AT YOU, AZUMA?
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOU, TOGUSA?! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PISSED OFF AT ME?
GO BUSY!
LISTEN, IT'S JUST THAT I'VE GOT A WIFE AN' KIDS... I CAN'T AFFORD TO BE PAIRED WITH SOMEBODY AS CRAZY AS YOU, THAT'S ALL...
WELL, YER EYEBROWS'VE GOT THAT ANGRY TWITCH TO 'EM!
WE DID FIND SOME PALM PRINTS AND A TRANSMITTER THE BAD GUY MAY'VE USED, BUT THAT'S IT FOR NOW...
...
BASICALLY, IT'S JUST LIKE THE LAST CASE... BOTH WITH THE BAD GUY'S M.O., AND WE CAN'T I.D. THE VICTIM...
SAITO TO TOGUSA...
WELL? YOU FIND ANYTHING?


WHAT THE--?!
THERE IS SOMETHING EVEN MORE INTERESTING... HERE... I'LL INFILTRATE YOUR FIELD OF VISION WITH THIS... BE CAREFUL NOT TO CRASH YOUR CAR...
'COURSE NOT...
NOT THE EAGLE-EYE VIEW, PLEASE...
SO THE BAD GUYS OUTSMARTED US...
YEAH... AND SHE'S GOT A SPARE RELAY ON HER... YOUR TRANSMITTER WAS ON HER BIKE...
HEY! THAT'S THE SAME NAJA V6 WE RAN INTO EARLIER!
I THINK WE'RE DEALING WITH MORE THAN JUST A FORMER CAMP GUARD HERE...
NONE OF 'EM FEEL REALLY LIVED IN... THEY HARDLY HAVE ANY DIRT ACCUMULATED... JUST LIKE THE SAFE HOUSES WE USE...
WE'RE DEALING WITH SOMEONE WITH A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE CHASE...
WHOEVER IT IS USES DISPOSABLE HUNTING DOGS TO FLUSH OUT THE FOX AND FIND THE LAIR, RIGHT?
WELL, THERE IS ONE THING COMMON TO THE PLACES ALL THESE VICTIMS LIVE...
SOMETHING'S A BIT FISHY ABOUT THE VICTIM, TOO, NO? NO INFORMATION ON HIM AT ALL?


WELL, THESE TRAINEES *ARE* ALL SPECIALLY SELECTED...
OF COURSE, I *DO* APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT WE'VE NARROWED THINGS DOWN TO TWELVE MISSING, AND FORTY-FIVE OTHERS...
BUT THAT'S JUST A LIST FROM *CAMP FIFTY-EIGHT,* MINUS THE NAMES OF THOSE DEAD, HOSPITALIZED, AND ON A FIXED INCOME, NO?
SOME OF THE INFO WE ASKED THE TRAINEES TO GET JUST CAME IN... PRETTY USEFUL, NO?
STILL, WE AT LEAST OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE THOSE WHO OBVIOUSLY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CASE OR WHO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY USED IN THE CRIMES...
...BUT WE STILL CAN'T ELIMINATE THEM. THEY COULD'VE HAD BLACK MARKET E-BRAIN OPERATIONS, OR THIS COULD BE MULTIPLE CRIMES WITH A VARIETY OF PEOPLE INVOLVED...
OF THE REMAINING FORTY-FIVE CANDIDATES, THERE'S NO RECORD THAT THIRTY-TWO OF THEM EVER HAD E-BRAIN OPERATIONS...
AN' NOT ONLY THAT... HE WAS PUT IN THE CAMP BECAUSE HE'D BEEN ASSISTING IN SOME ***CLANDESTINE ARMS SALES...***
AH, YA GOT A POINT THERE...
*YOU PROBABLY ELIMINATED HIM 'CUZ HE'S A SENIOR CITIZEN ON A FIXED INCOME. BUT HE ALSO USED TO BE A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE **SPECIAL FORCES UNIT** OF THE AIR SELF-DEFENCE FORCES!!*
LISTEN, I SAW THE LIST OF THOSE YOU EXCLUDED... WELL... YOU'D BETTER DOUBLE-CHECK NO. 207!
***BOMA!!** HEY, I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN USING MY TRAINEES!*
UM... WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?


WHEN I WAS A TRAINEE, I WAS MOBILIZED ALL THE TIME FOR STUFF LIKE THIS, AND THE ON-SITE SUPE WAS ALWAYS IN CHARGE...
WHA?! YOU MEAN I ACTUALLY NEED PERMISSION?!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, PROTO, I'M AMAZED THE CHIEF EVEN GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO USE THE TRAINEES!
HEY! THIS IS S'POSED TO BE A JOINT INVESTIGATION, BATOU. WHAT'S WITH DEALING WITH THE ENCRYPTED COMMUNICATIONS?
BEATS ME, BATOU...
WHO IN THE WORLD WOULD ALLOW THAT? I WONDER IF THE OLD MAN CHANGED HIS POLICY...
...
YOU EVER THINK ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE MILITARY?
742 DAYS, EIGHT HOURS...
HOW LONG'S IT BEEN SINCE YOU MOVED OVER TO PUBLIC SECURITY, ANYWAY, BATOU?


*FX: VRMM
WHAT'S THE GOOD OF ALWAYS FIGHTING AGAINST STUPID CRIMINALS AND LAWS, ANYWAY?
I MEAN, THE ONLY THING GUYS LIKE YOU AN' ME ARE REALLY GOOD AT IS *KILLING PEOPLE*, RIGHT?
WHO'S INTERESTED IN *EVOLVING*, ANYWAY?
YOU MILITARY GUYS NEVER DO EVOLVE, DO YOU?
HEY, DON'T GET *MORALISTIC* ON ME, BATOU... WE'RE BOTH JUST PROFESSIONAL KILLERS, AFTER ALL...
UNLIKE YOU, KIM, AT PUBLIC SECURITY WE'RE *MORE* THAN JUST KILLING MACHINES...
I DON'T GIVE A *DAMN* WHAT GOOD IT IS.
I STILL DON'T GET YOU GUYS IN PUBLIC SECURITY, BATOU...
THAT SAID, I DO AGREE WITH YOU, KIM, THAT THE LAWS'RE OUT OF DATE AND INEFFECTIVE, AND CRIMINALS *ARE* IDIOTS...
HEY, HOW OFTEN ARE YOU GONNA GET A SUPERIOR YOU CAN HAVE 100% FAITH IN, ANYWAY, *HAH?*
I MEAN, YOU GUYS IN SECTION 9 ARE SO *FLIPPANT* ABOUT THE ORDERS YOU GET...
*FX: VROM VROOOM BRAT BAAAT
*FX: PUTTER PUTTER


WE NEED A PRIORITY CHECK ON NO. 76...
WHAT ASPECT OF HIM?
ANY PROGRESS?!
BOMA! ABOUT THE LIST OF PEOPLE IN THE PREFECTURE...
WHAT THE HELL?!?
HE'S A FORMER LONG-DISTANCE SCOUT FOR THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES ARMY, BUT HE'S ALSO GOT A LONG TRACK RECORD OF DEALING IN STUFF LIKE ILLEGAL ARMS SALES..
DAMMIT!
AGH... ARG!
AH, THE PLUG.
WE LOOKED INTO FOUR PEOPLE, AND THREE OF EM ALL MENTIONED NO. 76-- A MAN BY THE NAME OF TERUYUKI SAHARA...
AGH... BLAST!!
I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU... I'M OFF TO INVESTIGATE ANOTHER CASE, INVOLVING NO. 5!!
CHAK
HE APPARENTLY LIVES NEAR THE SOUTH HIKIDEJIMA BASE, WHERE BATOU AND KIM ARE HEADED RIGHT NOW... MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK 'EM TO STOP AND CHECK ON MR. SAHARA...
BEEP
BEEP
SO THIS IS NO. 76, EH?
AN' FIVE YEARS AFTER HE GETS E-BRAINED AND STARTS LIVING ON A PENSION, HE'S STILL FEARED...
HE APPARENTLY HAD A LOT OF ENEMIES WHEN WORKING AT THE CAMP...
OOO.
KAKI
OH!
*5 yrs. 4 OPEN SEATS TERRA-ADE OPEN TODAY SPECIAL OPEN NO COMMEMORATION


WE'LL GO BACK...
WHA?! BLOCK THREE IN THE RUINS OF YUMA TATE PARK? WE JUST WENT BY THERE *EARLIER*...
AH, TOO BAD...
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
HEY, PROTO! YOU KNOW THE CHIEF'S ASS ISN'T ALL SHINY CLEAN, RIGHT?
WELL, I'VE NEVER GONE UP AGAINST ANYONE FROM REALLY COLD COUNTRY...
SO HIS NAME'S *SAHARA*... AND HE USED TO BE A LONG-DISTANCE SCOUT IN THE FAR NORTH...
HE'S TRYIN' TA TELL YOU THAT IF YOU'RE GONNA ASK OTHER PEOPLE TO DO STUFF, *YOU'VE* GOTTA GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR, TOO... BATOU HATES THE DESK-JOCKEY AN MILITARY WAY OF GIVING ORDERS...
WE'RE WEARING DIFFERENT SHOES HERE, KIM...
HEY, DON'T LUMP US TOGETHER.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE OF YOU, TOO, BATOU...
WHAT'S THAT GO TO DO WITH ANYTHING? YOU CAME OUT OF THE *JUNGLE*, AND NOW YER WALKING AROUND IN THE *CITY*...
OH... *HEH HEH*... WELL, I CERTAINLY DIDN'T INTEND...
EEP!


TOGUSA, WE'VE GOTTA GET BUSY WITH THE LIST... HEY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
AN *INVESTI-GATION,* WHAT ELSE?
HEY, AZUMA... YOU'VE GOTTA DIRECT YOUR COMPLAINTS TO THE GUY *CONTROLLING* HER...
SHIT. I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY SHE SHOT AT US...
HEY, YOU OUGHTA LEAVE THAT UP TO FORENSICS AND THE LAB GUY'S... THAT'S *THEIR* TERRITORY...
THEY'LL COMPLAIN ABOUT US MESSING AN' SAY WE DIDN'T USE CORRECT *LEGAL PROCEDURES* AN' STUFF...
I GOT A COUPLE FINGERPRINTS OFF THE SINK AND THE TOILET HERE...
DON'T JUST STAND THERE AN' STEW, AZUMA .. GO INVESTIGATE SOMETHING *YOURSELF*...
DON'T AGREE WITH ME SO DAMN EASILY, TOGUSA .. YOU'RE A COLD-HEARTED SON OF A BITCH ..
WHA? OH, HEY, I AM, *REALLY*...
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? ONE OF YOUR BUDDIES HAS BEEN *SHOT!* DONCHA THINK YOU OUGHTA BE A LITTLE MORE *UPSET?*
LEAVE EVERYTHING UP TO FORENSICS AN' WE'LL *NEVER* CATCH THE BAD GUY, SAITO...


AH, KNOCK IT OFF, TOGUSA...
Y'KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T FIT THE NORMAL PUBLIC SECURITY AGENT MODE, AZUMA...
HMPH!
MIGHT BE A 90% PROBABILITY OF THAT, PAL, BUT WE STILL CAN'T BE CERTAIN...
DON'T SEE WHY WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THIS UP TO THE LAB GUYS... FOR SURE, THE BODY'S THAT OF THE POWERBOAT OWNER...
WHY WOULD I WANT TO TRY ODOR SENSING IN A PLACE THAT STINKS THIS BAD...?
C'MON... GIMME A BREAK...
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST IDENTIFY SOME GOOD ODORS FOR US THAT'LL HELP SOLVE THIS CASE?
THIS IS GETTING WEIRD...
THIS PRINT'S FROM THE ONE OTHER GUY... THE MILITARY MAN STILL IN THE SERVICE...
WASSUP?!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, TOGUSA... THE STENCH'D STILL STICK IN MY FILTERS...
WELL, YOU COULD TURN OFF THE OLFACTORY NERVE CIRCUITS IN YOUR SYSTEM AND JUST COLLECT SOME DATA, NO?
WE HAVE A MATCH...
beep
WHAT THE--?!


*FX. ACK ACK
SAHARA'S S'POSED TO BE LIVING SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...
ON PAPER, AT LEAST...
SLAM
RUMBLE/ RUMBLE/ RUMBLE
RUSTLE RUSTLE
CHK CHK CHK
SCREECH
AH, C'MON... WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO? CHARGE IN THE FRONT DOOR OF THE PLACE?
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE ABILITIES OF TODAY'S JUVENILE DELINQUENTS... YOU'LL REGRET IT LATER...
IT'S EASY TO MAKE CARS HARD TO STEAL, YOU KNOW...
HEY, I THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR TURN TO GUARD THE CAR, PAL...
THAT'S MY LINE, PAL...
DON'T GET IN MY WAY, THEN...
DO AS YOU PLEASE, PAL... I'M WORKING ON MY OWN HERE...
BEEP BEEP


FX BAM BAM BAM BAM
FUCK OFF, ASSHOLE... I AIN'T GOT THE MONEY TA PAY ANY BILLS...
EHEM... TAKEDA-SAN!! YOU HOME?!
WONDER WHAT A LONG-RANGE SCOUT DOES...?
IF IT WERE ME, I'D HAVE SET BOOBY TRAPS THROUGHOUT THE APARTMENT AND GONE UNDERGROUND A LONG TIME AGO ..
WHA? RAISE BENEFITS? YA MEAN YER NOT A BILL COLLECTOR? C'MON IN, THEN... C'MON IN...
HIC
UH, S'CUSE ME, SIR... I'M FROM THE COMMITTEE TO RAISE WELFARE BENEFITS...

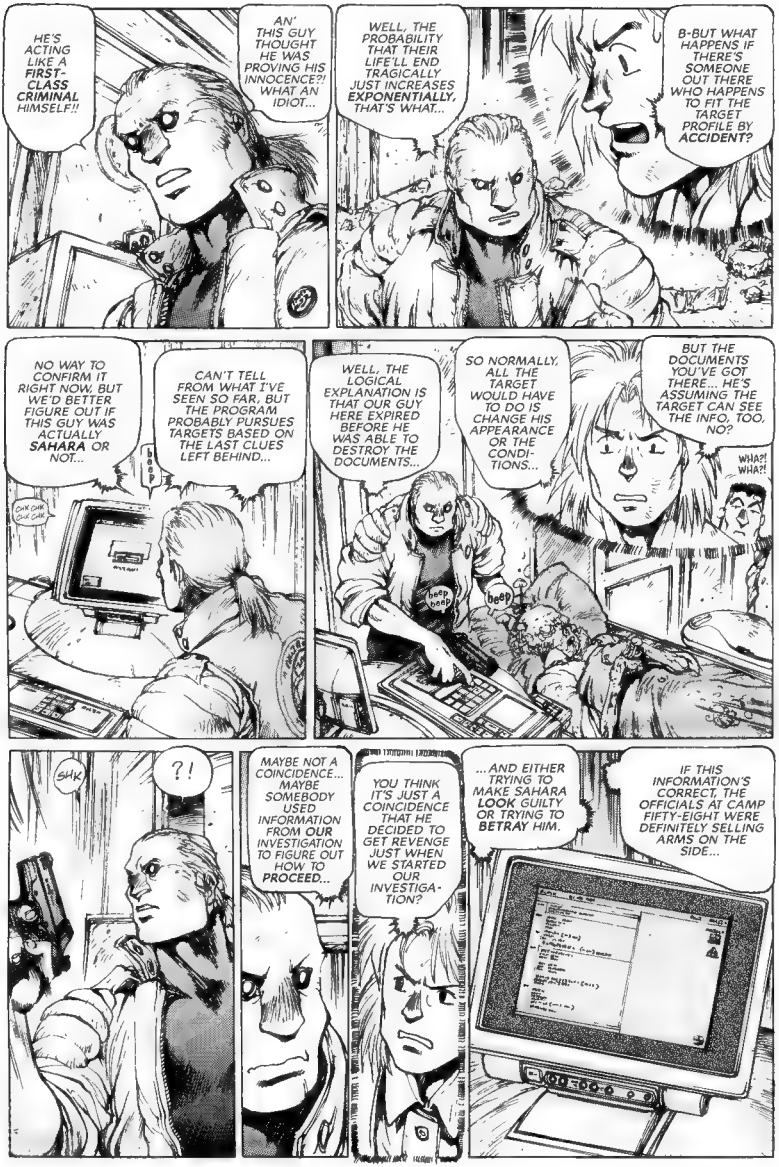

HM... THIN WALLS HERE... YOU EVER HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS?
TAP TAP
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AN' BESIDES, WHERE'RE MY BENEFITS?! Y'KNOW... THE FREE STUFF...!
WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE? YOUR PLACE IS FILTHIER THAN THE DUMPSTERS OUTSIDE, MY FRIEND...
LESSEE... RIGHT ABOUT HERE, I'D SAY.
THE OLD GEEZER NEXT DOOR? NAW... HAD SOME ARGUMENTS WITH HIM A LONG TIME AGO, BUT IT'S BEEN REAL QUIET FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS... MAYBE HE'S NOT AROUND...
HAWLMP
YOW!!!
HURT?! WHAT THE--?! HEY, WATCH IT!!
beep
STAND BACK, PAL, OR YOU MIGHT GET HURT...
CLANK
HEY, WHAD'YA THINK YER DOIN?!
HA HA HA


*KOOMP
WHAT THE--?!
*WOMP
*KRECH
THIS GUY DIDN'T DIE YESTERDAY, THAT'S FOR SURE...
HOLY COW...
WHOA... I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...
FOR SOMEONE INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ARMS DEALING, HE REALLY BUILT HIS BOOBY TRAPS ON THE CHEAP...
BUT WATCH OUT FOR YOUR PARTNER... HE'S NOT TELLING YOU EVERYTHING...
OF COURSE... ONE OF YOUR OLD BUDDIES...
HEY... SOMEBODYS SHARING MY FIELD OF VISION...
SURE ENOUGH, THERE ARE ***CANNISTER BOMBS*** PLANTED ALL OVER...
AH, YER SUCH AN UGLY MOTHER, TOGUSA...


SO *THIS* IS WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH...
SQUAWK BEEP BEEP
!
DUNNO IF IT'S CUZ OF THE AIR CONDITIONING, BUT HE DOESN'T STINK AS MUCH A NORMAL CORPSE, AND HE SEEMS TO BE *SEMI-MUMMIFIED*...
I KNOW WHY YOU CAME...
IT'S TOO LATE... MY SURROGATES WILL CONTINUE PURSUING YOU...
?


HEY, IF YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TIME TO BROADCAST MY REACTIONS, WHY NOT DO YOUR *OWN* INVESTIGATION...?
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE RECORDING THIS...
// HELLO? HELLO? THIS THE POLICE? SHIT! MY PHONE'S BEEN CUT OFF FOR NON-PAYMENT... //
...OR BECOMING AN ARMS DEALER MYSELF JUST TO CAUSE YOU HAVOC...
I THOUGHT ABOUT PROVING MY INNOCENCE IN COURT, AND HAVING YOU TRIED FOR ILLEGAL ARMS DEALING...
...AND YOU SHALL BE ON THE **RUN** FOR-EVER...
STILL... AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED, I WILL NOW **LIVE** FOREVER...
...BUT I HAVE NO TIME LEFT...
...SO EVEN IF WE WIPE OUT EVERY TARGET WE'RE GIVEN, MORE KILLERS'LL STILL EMERGE...
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE PROGRAMS THAT--UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS--**BRAINWASHES** PEOPLE, AND IT COULD GO ON FOREVER...
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS GUY'S **NOT** THE ONE WE SHOULD BE PURSUING... AND WE CAN EXPECT **MORE** RANDOM MURDERS TO TAKE PLACE...?
HE'S BEEN STREAMING DATA ON HIS TARGET, ALONG WITH INFORMATION ON HOW TO KILL HIM, AS PART OF A VIRAL BRAIN-WASHING PROGRAM..*
THIS GUY'S **INCRED-IBLE**...

*streaming to some part of the net


HE'S ACTING LIKE A FIRST-CLASS CRIMINAL HIMSELF!!
AN' THIS GUY THOUGHT HE WAS PROVING HIS INNOCENCE?! WHAT AN IDIOT...
WELL, THE PROBABILITY THAT THEIR LIFE'LL END TRAGICALLY JUST INCREASES EXPONENTIALLY, THAT'S WHAT...
B-BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO HAPPENS TO FIT THE TARGET PROFILE BY ACCIDENT?
NO WAY TO CONFIRM IT RIGHT NOW. BUT WE'D BETTER FIGURE OUT IF THIS GUY WAS ACTUALLY SAHARA OR NOT...
CAN'T TELL FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN SO FAR, BUT THE PROGRAM PROBABLY PURSUES TARGETS BASED ON THE LAST CLUES LEFT BEHIND...
beep
CHK CHK CHK CHK
WELL, THE LOGICAL EXPLANATION IS THAT OUR GUY HERE EXPIRED BEFORE HE WAS ABLE TO DESTROY THE DOCUMENTS...
SO NORMALLY, ALL THE TARGET WOULD HAVE TO DO IS CHANGE HIS APPEARANCE OR THE CONDI-TIONS...
BUT THE DOCUMENTS YOU'VE GOT THERE... HE'S ASSUMING THE TARGET CAN SEE THE INFO, TOO, NO?
WHA?! WHA?!
beep beep
beep
SHK
?!
MAYBE NOT A COINCIDENCE... MAYBE SOMEBODY USED INFORMATION FROM OUR INVESTIGATION TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PROCEED...
YOU THINK IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT HE DECIDED TO GET REVENGE JUST WHEN WE STARTED OUR INVESTIGA-TION?
...AND EITHER TRYING TO MAKE SAHARA LOOK GUILTY OR TRYING TO BETRAY HIM.
IF THIS INFORMATION'S CORRECT, THE OFFICIALS AT CAMP FIFTY-EIGHT WERE DEFINITELY SELLING ARMS ON THE SIDE...


!
TRASH
KAWOMP


*FX FRMP
UMGH
*FX RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE
HEY, THE PHONE'S GONE DEAD AS A DOORNAIL!
ACK...AH' I PUT MY WASH OUT TA DRY!
GCHNK
CLUNK
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT EXPLOSION?!
UH OH
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
CAN'T SEE ANY THING!
WHERE IS IT? WHERE?!
...
...
!
*FX CHK CHK FLUTTER FLICK
YOU'RE LATE, PAL...
*FX VOMP
*FX CHAK
*FX THUMP
YOU GOT ANY LAST WORDS?
HEY... IF ALL THAT'S LEFT IS YOUR HEAD, HOW COME YOU'RE NOT DEAD, HUH?
GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE AND NO ONE'LL EVER KNOW A THING, RIGHT? IT'S ALL SO EASY...
TOO BAD... MAYBE THERE NEVER WAS ANY SOLID EVIDENCE ABOUT ILLEGAL ARMS DEALING...
*CHK CHK
WHA?!
"ALL THAT'S LEFT IS MY HEAD"? THAT HOW I APPEAR TO YOU, KIM?!


KERTHUD
SFX: VOMP
UNGH...
SFX: V-K CHK CHK
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF BALLS TO APPEAR HERE WITHOUT TAKING ANY COUNTERMEASURES... NO WONDER MY HEAD AND OTHER STUFF STAYED IN YOUR FIELD OF VISION...
GUESS YOU FORGOT, PAL... MY SPECIALTY'S ELECTRONIC WARFARE...
! ... !!
I'M GONNA TAKE MY TIME, AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS... TRY TA FIGURE OUT HOW YOU AND NITO WERE INVOLVED...
AND ARMS DEALING ..?! WHAT A STUPID IDEA...
...THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD'VE KILLED A CYBORG LIKE ME WITH ONLY TWO GRENADES-- NOT WHEN I'M WEARING BODY ARMOR... WHO DO YOU THINK I AM, ANYWAY, EH?
I SHOT THE TWO LITTLE PRESENTS YOU TOSSED THROUGH THE WINDOW... THEY EXPLODED RIGHT INSIDE, BUT EVEN IF THEY HAD ACHIEVED MAXIMUM BLAST FORCE...
MADE A LITTLE MESS HERE, SO DO ME A FAVOR AND TALK TO THE LOCAL COPS AND THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, OKAY?
YO, TOGUSA!! I PUT THE CUFFS ON THE ASSHOLE, KIM!!
EVERY-THING GO ALL RIGHT, BATOU?!

Batou took advantage of the fact that Kim was coming (with all sensors on) to take care of the site (to get rid of any evidence and administer the coup de grace to Batou), and he thus infiltrated Kim's e-brain. When Batou did so, instead of sending an image of himself, wounded, into Kim's field of vision, he sent the image directly into Kim's brain. "Batou's head" is therefore what Kim really perceived. It was probably too hard for Batou to instantly put together a complete image of himself, so he just used the head...


RIGHT... HEH HEH...
YUP YUP
...BUT I DIDN'T IMAGINE THINGS'D HAPPEN LIKE THIS.
I THOUGHT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN WE WERE BLABBLING AWAY USING UN-ENCRYPTED COMMUNICA-TIONS...
NOT TO WORRY, PAL... I HAVEN'T LOST AS MUCH OF MY TOUCH AS YOU MIGHT THINK...
...
AND NOW, THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE'LL NEVER SOLVE THE SAHARA CASE JUST INCREASED...
BE THERE IN 28 MINUTES...
WELL, IT DID SEEM LIKE PEOPLE STARTED GETTING KILLED OFF WHEN SECTION 9 GOT INVOLVED IN THIS CASE... SO I DID THINK THE BAD GUYS WERE STARTING TO PANIC A BIT...
IF YOU WERE FOLLOWING NITO'S ORDERS, I'LL JUST MAKE SURE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS TO YOU... UNDERSTAND, PAL?
IF YOU WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ARMS DEALING, YOU'LL PROB'LY MEET AN UNTIMELY END IN THE SLAMMER...
TELL YOU THE TRUTH, PAL... FOR OLD TIMES SAKE I'D LOVE TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW. BUT LIKE I SAID, I'M NO COLD-BLOODED KILLER...

*FX: WOPPA WOPPA WOPPA WOPPA


SO NITO WAS...
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT THE GHOST OF *SAHARA*?
MAYBE *NOT* SUCH GOOD THING...
SO WE HAD FOXES MINDING THE CHICKEN COOP, *EH*...? NO WONDER WE COULDN'T STOP THE ARMS DEALING... GOOD THING I ASKED YOU TO GET INVOLVED, *ARAMAKI*...
...SO I'LL THINK IT OVER AND GET BACK TO YOU, ARAMAKI.
WELL, IN MY JOB I'VE GOT TO MAINTAIN MY ABILITY TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE SACRIFICE, BUT DO IT EFFICIENTLY...
JUST THINK OF IT AS SPECIAL TRAINING, FOR PEOPLE ON LOAN TO US...
YOU ASKING ME FOR MORE *MAN-POWER*, ARAMAKI?
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A VARIETY OF COUNTERMEASURES AND DO PERIODIC INVESTIGATIONS USING DECOYS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SACRIFICE ANY MORE PEOPLE...


HEY, LISTEN, BATOU... SORRY I PUT YOU IN SUCH A TIGHT SPOT, OKAY?
WELL, WHEN YOU'RE THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF, YOU GET TA ACT LIKE A CHIEF...
SEEMS LIKE HE COULD'VE AT LEAST SAID A WORD ABOUT IT TO US...
WELL, THE CHIEF *MUST'VE* KNOWN ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR A BAD GUY *WITHIN* THE MILITARY...
TIME TO GO, BOYS...
IF I EVER DO SWITCH OVER TO THE UNIFORMED FORCES, THE FIRST THING I'LL *DO* IS USE YOU AS THE DECOY--ON A GAY SERIAL MURDER INVESTIGATION...
DON'T SWEAT IT, PAL...
AGAH...
TEE HEE... I'LL START PRACTICING, DEAR...
IF I DON'T, IT GETS KINDA *MOLDY,* Y'KNOW...
PAT PAT
GOTTA AIR THE THING OUT ONCE IN A WHILE, CHIEF...
UM, CHIEF...
WHAT'S WITH THE *MILITARY JACKET,* BATOU?!
SO WHAT'S THE PUNISHMENT GONNA BE FOR KIM, CHIEF?


WELL, IT'S A RELIEF TA HEAR THAT!
DON'T BELIEVE IN TRYING TO TAKE ANYTHING I DON'T NEED TO MY GRAVE...
PERSONALLY, I SOLD MY UNIFORM AND ALL MY MEDALS TO A SURPLUS STORE YEARS AGO.
IT GETS THAT WAY 'CUZ YOU'RE TOO ATTACHED TO IT, BATOU...
IT'S A NEVER ENDING BATTLE WITH MINEFIELDS, WAGED WITH INFO-GENES.
WELL, VIRUS'S CHANGE SHAPE AND REPRODUCE, WITHOUT EVER HAVING "ROOTS"...
YEAH... IF WE DON'T CUT THIS OFF AT THE ROOTS, THERE'LL JUST BE MORE OF 'EM.
BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE SAHARA'S SUCCESSOR INTO CUSTODY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ..
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GET INFECTED, GENTLEMEN...
IT JUST FLEW OFF... LIKE THIS... =POOF=...
UM... SOMEWHERE IN CENTRAL AMERICA, I THINK...
"EHEH"? WHADDYAMEAN?! WHERE'D YOU SEND THAT DAMNED PROGRAM I JUST WROTE, ANYWAY?
AAHH
EHEH...

MINES OF MIND: END

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GHOST IN THE SHELL 1.5

HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊



MANN[illegible] INTERFACE CONT[illegible] REFERENCES

SHIROW MASAMUNE

DIRECT SALES

GHOST IN THE SHELL
HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 7 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

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TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

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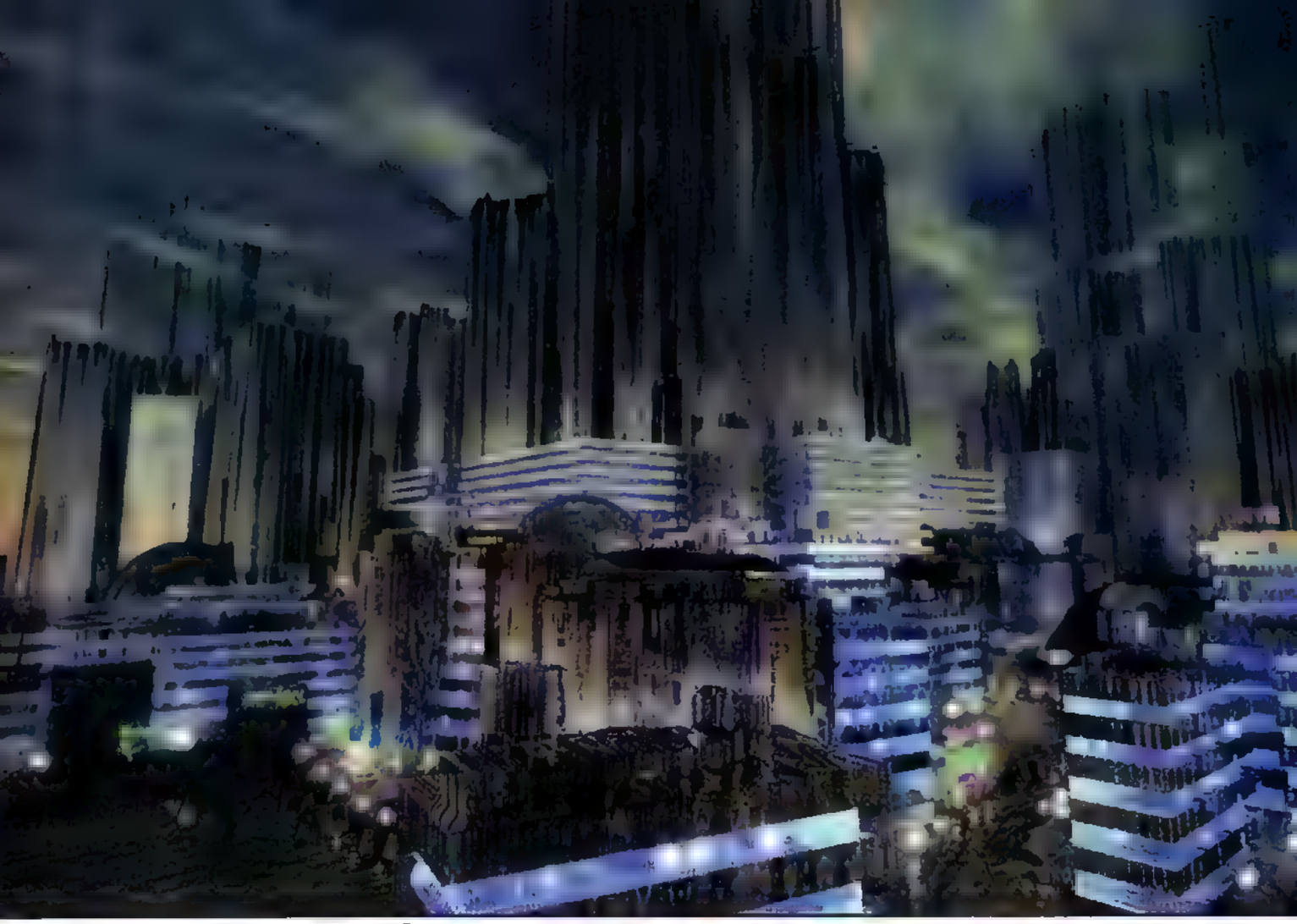
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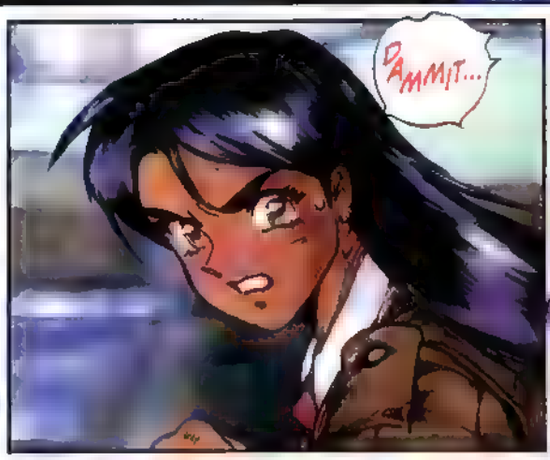
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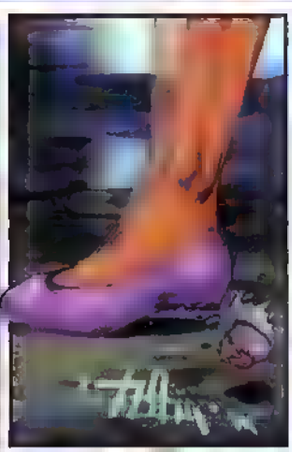


攻殻機動隊 1.5

LOST PAST Part 1



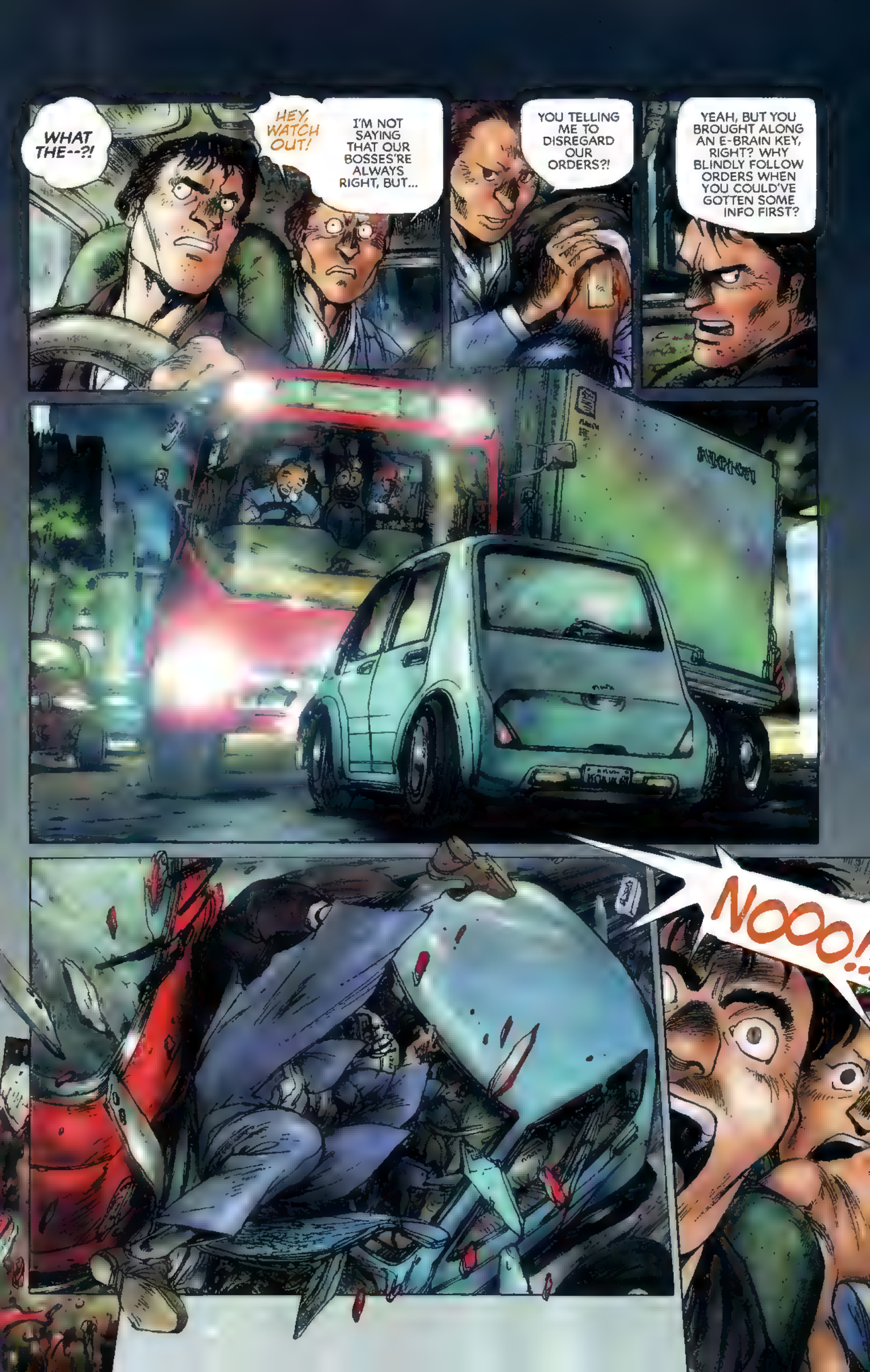

DAMMIT...








?
!
SQUEEC!
HEY! KILL HER AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET ANY *DETAILS* OUT OF HER!!
B-BUT WE WERE TOLD TO OFF HER RIGHT AWAY... BESIDES, SHE'S BEEN E-BRAINED...


WHAT THE--?!
HEY, WATCH OUT!
I'M NOT SAYING THAT OUR BOSSES'RE ALWAYS RIGHT, BUT...
YOU TELLING ME TO DISREGARD OUR ORDERS?!
YEAH, BUT YOU BROUGHT ALONG AN E-BRAIN KEY, RIGHT? WHY BLINDLY FOLLOW ORDERS WHEN YOU COULD'VE GOTTEN SOME INFO FIRST?
NOOO!!


IT'S THE GUY OVER THERE, FROM OUR YAKUSHI STATION. HE'S IN CHARGE OF OUR PUBLIC SECURITY. NAME'S SHIKIBU...
SO WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?
DON'T LET ANYONE YOU DON'T KNOW APPROACH THE VEHICLE
YES-SIR
beep
TAKE A LOOK AT THE WOMAN'S NECK...
SO, MR. SHIKIBU... TELL ME WHY YOU CALLED IN SECTION 9...
KNOCK IT OFF, YOU IDIOT THOSE GUYS ARE THE REAL DEAL AND SCARY...
HEY, KIN-CHAN WHO ARE THOSE GUYS? AN WHAT'S GOIN ON?!
POLICE
LOOKS LIKE SHE MUST'VE RUN A SHORT DISTANCE WITHOUT ANY SHOES... YOU FIND ANY SHOES?
GOING BY THE DOCUMENTS ON THE WOMAN, SHE WAS NAMED SAILA HAZARUGI, SEVENTEEN YEARS OLD, EMPLOYED AT A COSMETICS FIRM, AND A MEMBER OF THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION...
NOTHING YET. WE RAN A CURSORY CHECK AND COULDN'T I.D THEM. FIREARM PERMITS ARE FORGERIES, AND THE CAR WAS STOLEN...
WHAT ABOUT THE TWO MEN...?


*sign: POLICE LINE – DO NOT CROSS
UH... UNDERSTOOD, SIR. WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR DIRECTIONS AND COOPERATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE...
C'MON... ACCORDING TO THE NORMAL PROTOCOLS, WE HAVE AUTHORITY IN THESE INVESTIGATIONS...
HEY... I DON'T GET IT. WE ASK YOU TO HELP, AND NOW YOU'RE TELLING US TO WORK UNDER YOU?
YOU'VE GOT A POINT... WE'LL TAKE OVER THE INVESTIGATION THEN, AND YOU GUYS CAN COOPERATE...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE SHOES, BUT YOU GUYS OUGHTA KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE TWO MEN, NO?
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?! I DON'T GET IT...
HE WAS APPARENTLY ATTACKED BY A VIRUS WHILE E-BRAIN DRIVING...
THEY SAY THE TRUCK DRIVER'S GONNA BE OUT FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS...
WITH THAT, I'LL GET TO WORK ON MY SIDE OF THE INVESTIGATION...
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON, PAL? WE JUST MET, SO WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE, EH?
HEY, YOU FOR REAL, TOGUSA? YOU MEAN I'M THE ONLY SANE ONE AROUND HERE?
AH, WELL, THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE, IN A CONVENTIONAL SENSE...
SAY WHA--?
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, ANYONE WHO'D KILL A YOUNG GIRL LIKE THAT IS OUT OF THEIR MIND...

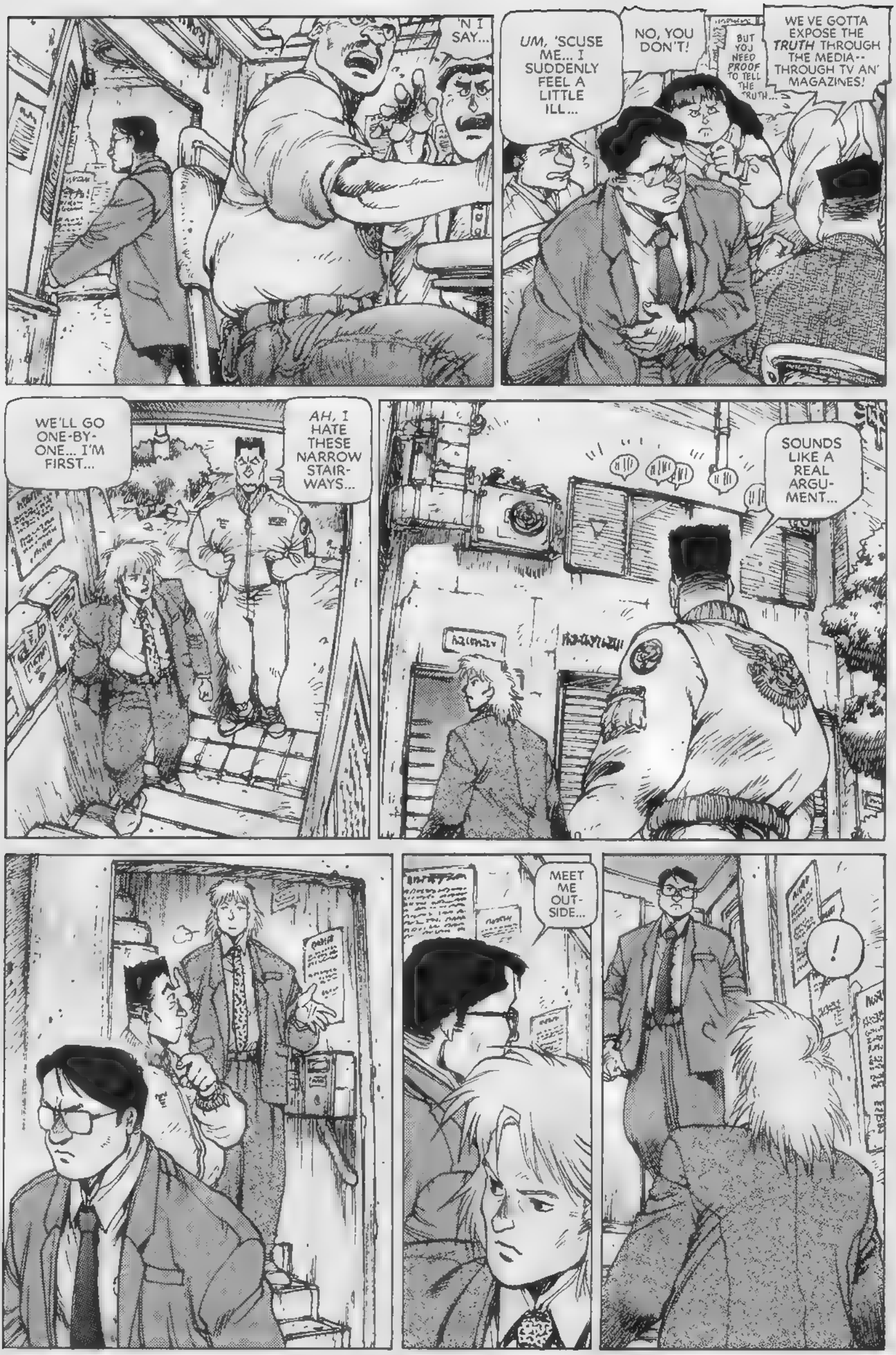

B29 TO QWER... I'LL PURCHASE THE "L" PROPERTY...
OVER
AH, YOU GET SO MANY FALSE POSITIVES WITH THAT TECHNOLOGY... IT'S STILL NOT VERY USEFUL...
HEY...LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE IGNORING US AND STILL DOING AUTOCHECKS ON THE I.D.s OF ALL THE WITNESSES...
POLICE
WHA--?! CHIEF?!
WE JUST GOT HERE
YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?
WHA--?!
I READ YOU, QWER... HOWEVER, I ADVISE YOU TO DO A CHECK ON THE SURROUNDING AREA...
I WAS IN CHARGE OF TRAINING THEM AT ONE POINT...
THESE TWO GUYS HERE ARE NISHIO AND LAW... SECTION 6 NEWBIES...
AH...
HEH, HEH... NOTHING YET. .
BATOU AND I JUST HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY... SO, WHAT'S GOING ON?
*FX DA DA DA DA DA DA
LEMME SAVE YOU SOME TIME, TOGUSA...
STILL HAVEN'T MANAGED TO I.D. THESE GUYS YET, HAVE YOU...?
POLICE

Section 6 of Public Security is also known as the foreign ministry's "treaty deliberation section" and is mainly responsible for security outside of Japan. During the "puppeteer" incident in *Ghost in the Shell*, Section 6 was involved in various behind-the-scenes machinations and came into conflict with Section 9. .


AH, THE WAY THEY DIED... SUCH AS *WASTE*...
SO, *AKANABE*... THESE ARE REALLY SECTION 6 OPERATIVES, RIGHT?
SO I'D LIKE AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT THEY WERE DOING ON OUR TURF AND WHY THEY SHOT THE GIRL...
WELL, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, BOTH MEN WERE REALLY RUNNING SECURITY FOR *MR. FUKATANI*, FORMERLY THE HEAD OF THE ASIA DEPARTMENT, RIGHT?
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION IN YET...
"HMPH"
CAN YOU IMAGINE? AN *AUTO ACCIDENT*...
SO, BASICALLY, YOU REALLY DON'T *KNOW* WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CRIME SCENE, RIGHT?
WE WANTED TO BRING HER IN, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK OUT...
WELL...
THE WOMAN WAS A TERRORIST, OUT TO GET FUKATANI...
EVEN *KILLING* PEOPLE?
WELL, FUKATANI HASN'T SPENT MUCH TIME IN-COUNTRY RECENTLY, SO SECTION 6 HAS JUST CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR HIM WHEN HE *IS* HERE...


I UNDERSTAND... SO WHAT IF SECTION 6 CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR MR. FUKATANI...
AND WE HANDLE THE TERRORIST-RELATED INVESTIGATION? THAT'D WORK FOR YOU, WOULDN'T IT?
OF COURSE, FUKATANI HIMSELF WASN'T HOME THEN...
LAST WE HEARD FROM OUR MEN, THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE IN A WOMAN DISGUISED AS A SECRETARY, WHO HAD INFILTRATED FUKATANI'S RESIDENCE...
I TOOK A LOOK AT WHAT THE GIRL HAD ON HER, AND AT HER HANDS...
IF SHE WAS A TERRORIST, SHE WASN'T THE ONE ENTRUSTED TO CARRY OUT THE OP...
HOO BOY...
WELL, IF SO, DO ME A FAVOR AND TELL MR. FUKATANI THAT WE HAVE TO DO AN INVESTIGATION AT HIS PLACE...
WE CAN LIVE WITH THAT...
YEAH... AND HE ALSO CHAIRED A COMMITTEE SET UP TO STUDY THE CHINA-TAIWAN ISSUE, TOO...
COME TO THINK OF IT, WASN'T FUKATANI IN CHARGE OF ASIA WHEN ALL THE DAMAGE WAS DONE ON OKINAWA?
NOTHING GOOD...
SO THAT'S THE DEAL... ANY NEW INFO ON THE GIRL?
THEY'RE CURRENTLY GOING AFTER THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS AGENCIES WITH A TOTAL OF TWENTY-FOUR LAW-SUITS OVER REPARATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUFFERING THEY INCURRED FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS...
SHE'S AFFILIATED WITH THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION... IT'S A GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ALL FROM THE ISLAND OF OKINAWA...


UH OH...
WHAT'S UP?
SCREECH
IT'S GOTTA BE SHIKIBU OR SECTION 6 GUYS...
CHAK
HEY, I C'N SEE IT, NO PROBLEM!
YOU PROLLY CAN'T SEE IT WITH THE NAKED EYE, OF COURSE.
THERE'S A WHITE VAN 170 DEGREES TO THE LEFT... IT'S STAKING OUT THAT BUILDING THERE... I SPOTTED A LENS!
PROTEST GOVERNMENT
WHA--?!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
B-BUT THERE'S NO EVIDENCE OF IT...
I'M SURE SHE WAS MURDERED!
SHE SAID SHE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOME GOOD INFORMATION!
IT'S SECTION 9! LET THE SUPE KNOW...

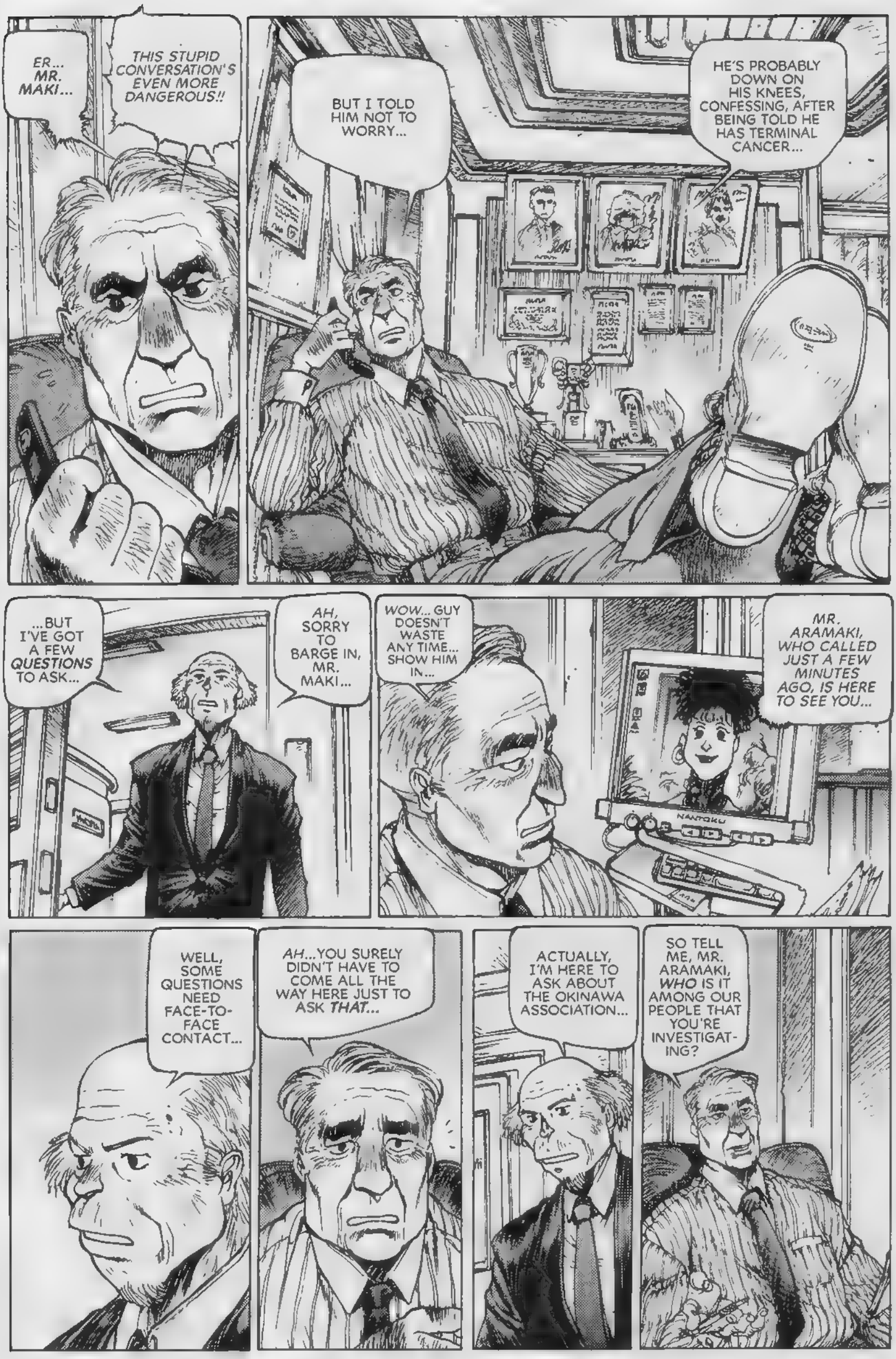

'N I SAY...
UM, 'SCUSE ME... I SUDDENLY FEEL A LITTLE ILL...
NO, YOU DON'T!
BUT YOU NEED PROOF TO TELL THE TRUTH...
WE'VE GOTTA EXPOSE THE TRUTH THROUGH THE MEDIA-- THROUGH TV AN' MAGAZINES!
WE'LL GO ONE-BY-ONE... I'M FIRST...
AH, I HATE THESE NARROW STAIR-WAYS...
SOUNDS LIKE A REAL ARGU-MENT...
MEET ME OUT-SIDE...
!

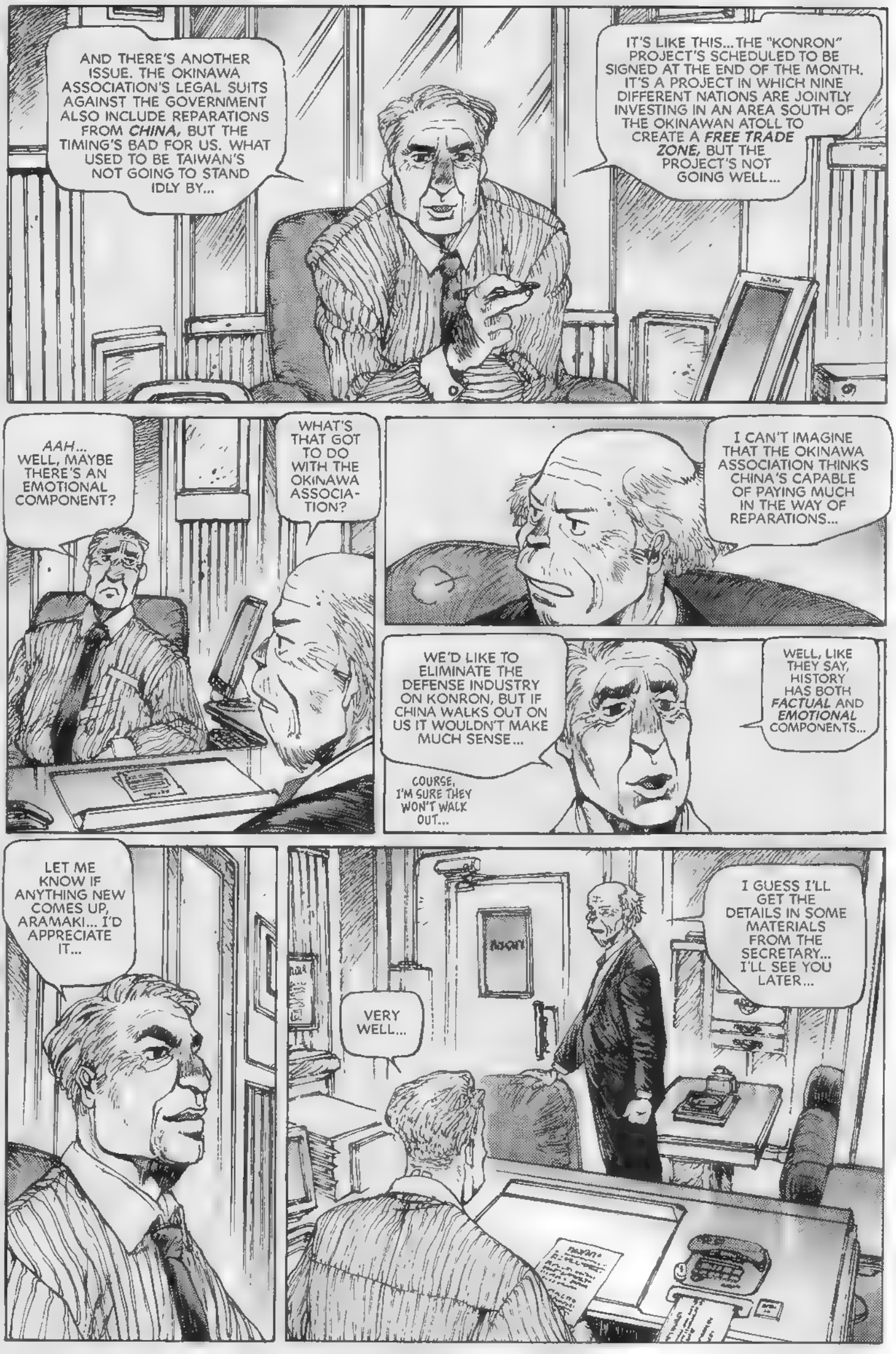



I'M COLLECTING INFORMATION, ON ORDERS FROM ABOVE...
YEAH... I INFILTRATED THE GROUP AS A MEMBER OF A SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION BACK IN APRIL...
YOU MEAN YOU'RE THERE *UNDERCOVER*...?
EVERYONE IN THE GROUP'S UP IN ARMS BECAUSE OF HAZARUGI'S DEATH... ANY GOVERNMENT AGENT'D BE LUCKY TO GET OUT ALIVE...


WELL, SHE OBVIOUSLY EITHER SAW OR HEARD SOMETHING THAT MADE SOMEBODY WANT TO KILL HER...
WHAT WAS THE GIRL REALLY UP TO, ANYWAY?
SO YOU'RE *NOT* THE ONE WHO CONTACTED US?
THINK NOTHING OF IT... I'VE HEARD THAT SECTION 9'S A BETTER PLACE TO WORK, THAT'S ALL...
Hmph...
WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION, SHIKIBU... HONEST...


YES, SIR...
NO KIDDING..? PUT HIM ON..
CHIEF... THERE'S A CODE FORTY-SEVEN CALL FOR YOU, FROM AKANABE, THE HEAD OF SECTION 6...
THERE'S NO SCHEDULE FOR HIM... NOTHING...
OUR TWO GUYS WERE SHADOWING FUKATANI ALL BY THEMSELVES, BUT NOW THEY'RE DEAD AND HE'S GONE MISSING...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
ARAMAKI, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM... FUKATANI'S GONE MISSING!
I WANT YOU TO BACK UP PROTO...
BATOU... DROP ME OFF AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, OKAY?
TOGUSA.. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION?
YES, SIR...
PROTO... I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR INVESTIGATION INTO FUKATANI...
...BUT WE JUST STARTED OBSERVING THEM DIRECTLY FROM THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET, SO WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF DETAILED INFO YET.
WELL, THE MAIN MEMBERS ARE HAVING A HEATED ARGUMENT RIGHT NOW...


ER... MR. MAKI...
THIS STUPID CONVERSATION'S EVEN MORE DANGEROUS!!
BUT I TOLD HIM NOT TO WORRY...
HE'S PROBABLY DOWN ON HIS KNEES, CONFESSING, AFTER BEING TOLD HE HAS TERMINAL CANCER...
...BUT I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK...
AH, SORRY TO BARGE IN, MR. MAKI...
WOW... GUY DOESN'T WASTE ANY TIME... SHOW HIM IN...
MR. ARAMAKI, WHO CALLED JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, IS HERE TO SEE YOU...
NANTOKU
WELL, SOME QUESTIONS NEED FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT...
AH...YOU SURELY DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO ASK THAT...
ACTUALLY, I'M HERE TO ASK ABOUT THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION...
SO TELL ME, MR. ARAMAKI, WHO IS IT AMONG OUR PEOPLE THAT YOU'RE INVESTIGATING?


AND THERE'S ANOTHER ISSUE. THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION'S LEGAL SUITS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT ALSO INCLUDE REPARATIONS FROM *CHINA*, BUT THE TIMING'S BAD FOR US. WHAT USED TO BE TAIWAN'S NOT GOING TO STAND IDLY BY...
IT'S LIKE THIS... THE "KONRON" PROJECT'S SCHEDULED TO BE SIGNED AT THE END OF THE MONTH. IT'S A PROJECT IN WHICH NINE DIFFERENT NATIONS ARE JOINTLY INVESTING IN AN AREA SOUTH OF THE OKINAWAN ATOLL TO CREATE A *FREE TRADE ZONE*, BUT THE PROJECT'S NOT GOING WELL...
AAH... WELL, MAYBE THERE'S AN EMOTIONAL COMPONENT?
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION?
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT THE OKINAWA ASSOCIATION THINKS CHINA'S CAPABLE OF PAYING MUCH IN THE WAY OF REPARATIONS...
WE'D LIKE TO ELIMINATE THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY ON KONRON, BUT IF CHINA WALKS OUT ON US IT WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE...
COURSE, I'M SURE THEY WON'T WALK OUT...
WELL, LIKE THEY SAY, HISTORY HAS BOTH *FACTUAL* AND *EMOTIONAL* COMPONENTS...
LET ME KNOW IF ANYTHING NEW COMES UP, ARAMAKI... I'D APPRECIATE IT...
VERY WELL...
I GUESS I'LL GET THE DETAILS IN SOME MATERIALS FROM THE SECRETARY... I'LL SEE YOU LATER...

During the era in which this story is set, U.S. forces in the Far East are no longer mainly based in Japan and a unified Korea (I know this nomenclature isn't proper, but forgive me; it's the only thing I could come up with), U.S. forces are instead on a landfill area near Takeshima Island. (Ah, again forgive me. I know there are political problems with this name, but it's too difficult to go into the details, so please forgive me.) Now, I know that moving U.S. forces to a landfill area is probably impossible, but we are dealing with a manga, after all, so please humor me. I do wish something could be done about this issue, though. What probably can be done is to have U.S. forces disperse off Japan's main islands, and build up the defense capabilities of the Japanese self-defense forces. But that's a scary idea in and of itself... Ah, excuse the political diversion...

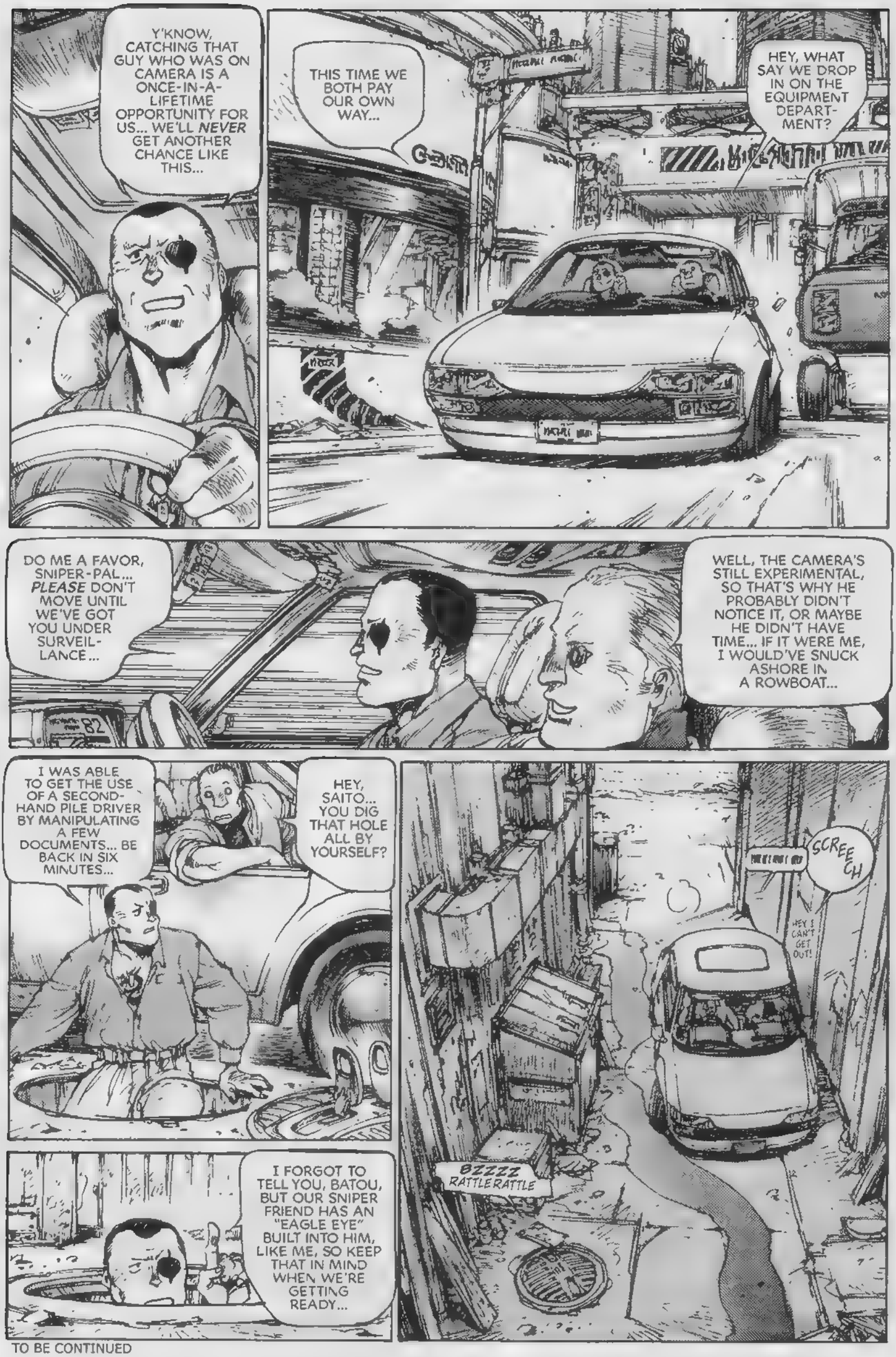

IT'S ME, PROTO... I'M COMING IN...
*SLAM
SQUEAK
UM... NO, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OVER HERE... AN' I THINK THERE WERE TWO DRAWERS OPEN...
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THEY CAME INTO THE FOYER WHILE SHE WAS HERE, RIGHT?
W-WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I'M SUPPOSED TO CLEAN THE PLACE UP. THAT'S MY JOB!
LISTEN, LADY... YOU AWARE THAT WHAT YOU DID MAKES YOU AN ACCOMPLICE TO A CRIME?!?
YEAH... THE PLACE WAS APPARENTLY ALREADY CLEANED UP...
HEY, PROTO, DO I HEAR WHAT I THINK I'M HEARING?


HERE'S THE DEAL. FOR NOW, JUST WRITE UP A REPORT AND TAKE HER CLEANING TOOLS AND ALL THE TRASH CANS BACK WITH YOU...
I'M DONE FOR... MY LIFE IS OVER...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? EITHER WAY, WITHOUT FUKATANI WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET VERY FAR...
WELL, IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH YOU *COOPERATE,* LADY...
HEH HEH
UM... AM... AM I GONNA BE *ARRESTED,* MISTER?
NO IMAGES LEFT EITHER, I ASSUME...
JEEZ, THIS IS A PROBLEM ABOVE AND BEYOND HOME SECURITY...
OH, MAN...
I'VE GOTTA RUN DOWN ALL HIS FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES, THE BARS HE FREQUENTS, THE PLACES HE LIKES, THE GROUPS OPPOSED TO HIM, ETC., ETC....
ME? I'M OFF TO FIND *FUKATANI,* WHAT ELSE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, BATOU, SIR?
UM... YEAH... WE'RE BETTER QUALIFIED...
HEY, KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE MARK!
SWITCH *NOW?* JUST WHEN WE'VE GOT A GOOD STAKEOUT SITE?
PROTO! I NEED YOU TO SWITCH PLACES WITH AZUMA AND ME... DON'T WORRY, I'LL EXPLAIN THINGS TO THE CHIEF...
WHA--?! ER... UNDERSTOOD, TOGUSA...
WE'VE GOTTA GO TO THE CRIME SCENE, AZUMA...
DON'T YOU THINK THIS CASE IS A LITTLE *WEIRD?*


TOP PRIORITY!!
ALPHA TO BATOU AND SAITO... WE NEED YOU TO RETURN TO HEAD-QUARTERS ON THE DOUBLE!
STOP
YOU'RE RIGHT, BATOU... HE'S NOT GONNA USE US FOR ANYTHING TOO DELICATE...
SO THAT'S THE DEAL, SAITO...
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE SLACK, BATOU. THIS IS URGENT!
HMPH... SOUNDS A LITTLE DISQUIETING, I'D SAY...
B-BUT I REALLY DO HAVE A GOOD HAND!
NO TIME FOR BLUFFING NOW, FUCHIKOMA! WE'VE GOTTA GO!
WHA--?! LEAVING NOW? B-BUT I'VE GOT A REALLY GREAT HAND!!
OH, MAN... AND I CAN'T EVEN DO A REAL-TIME GLOBAL SAVE HERE.
WANTED
SORRY, GUYS... IT'S AN EMERGENCY CALL-UP... GOTTA GO...
*FWAP
LAST TIME WE EVER PLAY WITH YOU GUYS FROM SECTION 9...
HEH HEH
WHA--?


DURING THE SHORT DURATION OF ITS OPERATION, AN EXPERIMENTAL CAMERA ABOUT A KLICK AWAY CAUGHT THIS IMAGE...
OKAY... WE'VE GOT SOME IMAGES ACCIDENTALLY PICKED UP TWENTY-TWO MINUTES AGO BY THE SURVEILLANCE NETWORK IN COASTAL ZONE Q46.
NOT PERSONALLY... BUT HE'S A WORLD-FAMOUS ACE SNIPER IN THE CHINESE ARMY...
YOU *KNOW* THE GUY, SAITO?
TH- THAT'S *YUEN SHOHOI!*
WHOOPS... HEH HEH...
...
AN' HE'S HERE IN JAPAN *SIGHTSEEING,* YA?
THE ASSASSINATION OF THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER IN 1999, THE TAIWANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN 2002, AND AT LEAST FIVE MORE MAJOR HARD-TO-PULL-OFF JOBS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO HIM...
.....
IF ANY DIPLOMATIC ISSUES COME OUT OF THIS, *YOU* HANDLE 'EM, OKAY...?
...BUT I WANT THE TWO OF YOU TO STAY ON TOP OF HIM AND TAKE CARE OF HIM IF ANYTHING HAPPENS...
WE DON'T KNOW WHY HE'S HERE OR IF THERE'S ANY CONNECTION TO OTHER CASES...

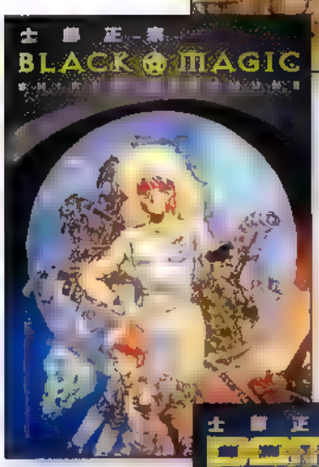
The key factor in identification here is not the new surveillance camera itself. It's that when snipers of this ilk are in an open area, they tend to visually scout out every possible target in range (or let's assume so, anyway). The staff monitoring the network identified the sniper by remotely operating the surveillance camera and noting that the man seemed to be casing something and was not equipped or acting in the fashion of a normal seaside worker.


Y'KNOW, CATCHING THAT GUY WHO WAS ON CAMERA IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR US... WE'LL *NEVER* GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS...
THIS TIME WE BOTH PAY OUR OWN WAY...
HEY, WHAT SAY WE DROP IN ON THE EQUIPMENT DEPART-MENT?
DO ME A FAVOR, SNIPER-PAL... *PLEASE* DON'T MOVE UNTIL WE'VE GOT YOU UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE...
WELL, THE CAMERA'S STILL EXPERIMENTAL, SO THAT'S WHY HE PROBABLY DIDN'T NOTICE IT, OR MAYBE HE DIDN'T HAVE TIME... IF IT WERE ME, I WOULD'VE SNUCK ASHORE IN A ROWBOAT...
I WAS ABLE TO GET THE USE OF A SECOND-HAND PILE DRIVER BY MANIPULATING A FEW DOCUMENTS... BE BACK IN SIX MINUTES...
HEY, SAITO... YOU DIG THAT HOLE ALL BY YOURSELF?
SCREECH
HEY! I CAN'T GET OUT!
BZZZZ RATTLE RATTLE
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, BATOU, BUT OUR SNIPER FRIEND HAS AN "EAGLE EYE" BUILT INTO HIM, LIKE ME, SO KEEP THAT IN MIND WHEN WE'RE GETTING READY...

TO BE CONTINUED















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HORSEPOWER

Heath Huston Is My Hero.

You don't find many spacemen like *Fear Agent*'s Heath Huston. Hard-drinking, hard-fighting men who live in piles of their own filth just don't seem to fit in with what people think of when they think of science fiction. More likely than not, the words "sci-fi hero" will cause people to picture more polished types like Luke Skywalker, Captain Kirk, or even Flash Gordon. But Heath Huston isn't your average spaceman. He's something different, something special. Filled with regret, self-loathing, and booze, Heath serves as a better role model than Skywalker, Kirk, and Gordon combined—because he's more *real* than any of those guys.

Huston is a slob. A down-on-his-luck bum who can't catch a break no matter how hard he tries. Despite how bad things get, Heath always prevails by sheer power of will. And unlike the Force, the Starship *Enterprise*, or a ray gun, willpower is something that *everyone* has access to. Like Heath, we have a will of our own to get us through the day. We know that no matter how filthy our surroundings are, no matter how hung over we are when we come into work in the morning, no matter how bad things get—we know that when the lizard men come, we will be able to dispatch them with a steel-toed boot to their scaly heads, because like Heath, we have the WILL to make it happen.

It's Heath's realism that has drawn thousands of readers to *Fear Agent* month after month. Rick Remender's skilled storytelling, along with the exquisite art of Tony Moore and Jerome Opeña, have taken what could have easily become yet another sci-fi pastiche and turned it into something new and unique. Rick, Tony, and Jerome have taken their love of classic comic-book science fiction and spun it in a way that makes it relevant and entertaining for today's readers. Recently, EC and *MAD* magazine legend Jack Davis got a chance to look at *Fear Agent*, and he told the guys, "The book is just beautiful. God bless him, I wish Harvey Kurtzman was around to see it." High praise indeed. (By the way, Jack Davis and fan-favorite Frank Cho will be providing alternate covers for *Fear Agent: The Last Goodbye* #1. Ask your retailer for details!)

If you're not already reading *Fear Agent*, do yourself a favor and pick up the first issue of *The Last Goodbye* when it hits the shelves in June (ASK YOUR RETAILER TO RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY!) And if you can't wait three months, check out the *Fear Agent* preview at darkhorse.com, and make sure to pick up the two *Fear Agent* collections, which go on sale May 9th and May 23rd respectively.

When the lizard men attack, you'll be glad you did.

Dave Land



DARK HORSE 20 YEARS

April 2007

Dark Horse Comics

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It Takes Brains to Control the Mindless

Chaos Drive – At the beginning of your spawn phase, roll an initiative die. Move this creature one cell forward (on a 1–2), right (3–4), or left (5–6).

Tactics 1 – Whenever a creature you control makes a non-deathblow special attack, roll one extra attack die.

Locus Drive – At the beginning of your spawn phase, move this creature one cell closer to the center cell.

0: Spark 3 – Gain +3 spawn points. These spawn points can only be spent on spawn abilities.

Blitz Drive – At the beginning of your spawn phase, move this creature one cell forward.

Charge 5 – Whenever this creature enters an enemy-occupied cell, make a 5-power attack against target local enemy.

Pursuit Drive – At the beginning of your spawn phase, move this creature one cell closer to the enemy with the highest spawn cost.

0: Fluctuate – Roll an initiative die. If this cell is a scoring cell for a player, it's worth that many conquest points to that player instead this turn.



High-strategy miniatures gaming goes in an all-new direction with the *Anvilborn*™ expansion to the Dreamblade™ Miniatures Game. This new 60-miniature set introduces the Anvilborn, no-aspect creatures that work in any warband and introduce a number of new mechanics, including *Drive*, an ability that automatically moves minis during the spawn phase—whether you want them to or not.

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anvilborn

Wizards of the Coast

GHOST IN THE SHELL 1.5

HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊



SHIROW MASAMUNE

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GHOST IN THE SHELL
HUMAN-ERROR PROCESSOR

攻殻機動隊

ISSUE 8 OF 8

STORY AND ART BY
SHIROW MASAMUNE

この物語に登場する様々な設定や解説や概念は全て妄想の産物であり、現実とは無関係の娯楽物です。服用を誤る事無くお楽しみ頂ければ幸いです。
またデッチ上げやギミックの「誤用」による二次被害には当方責任を負いかねます点を御了承願います。

TRANSLATION BY
FREDERIK L. SCHODT

LETTERING BY
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
SAMANTHA ROBERTSON

PUBLICATION DESIGN
DAVID NESTELLE

ART DIRECTOR
LIA RIBACCHI

PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

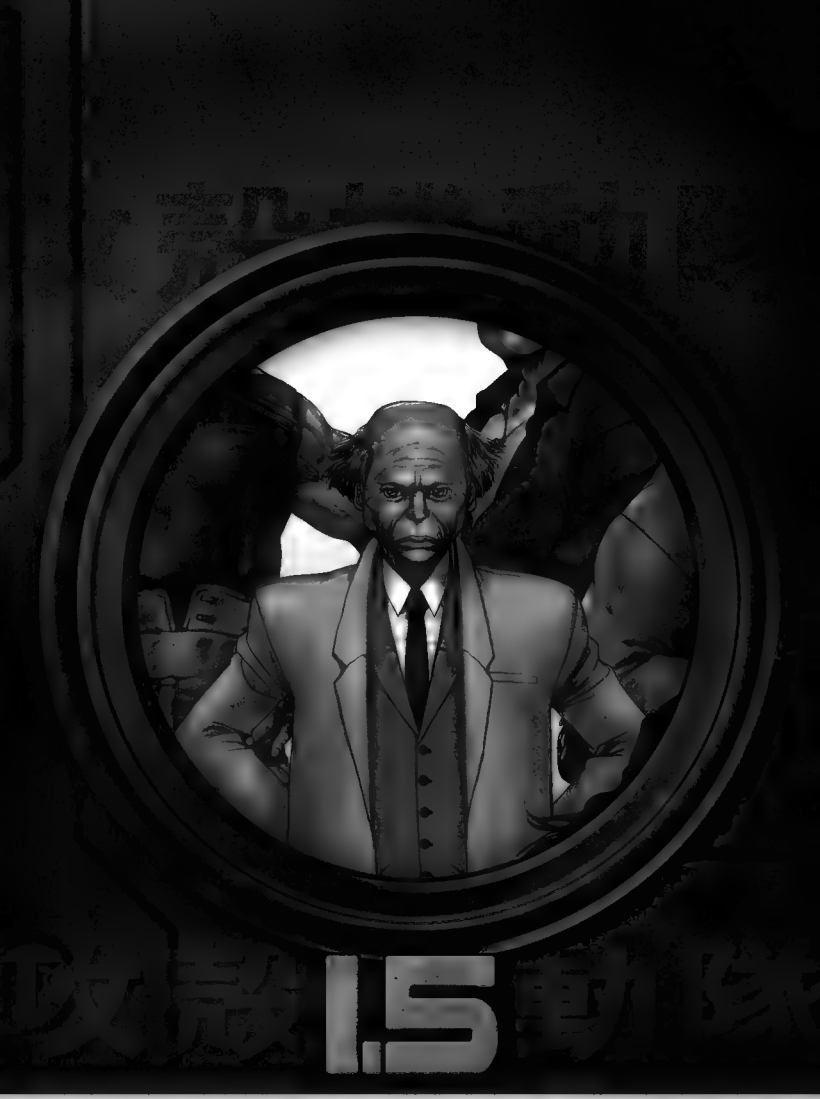
ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION PRODUCED BY DARK HORSE MANGA

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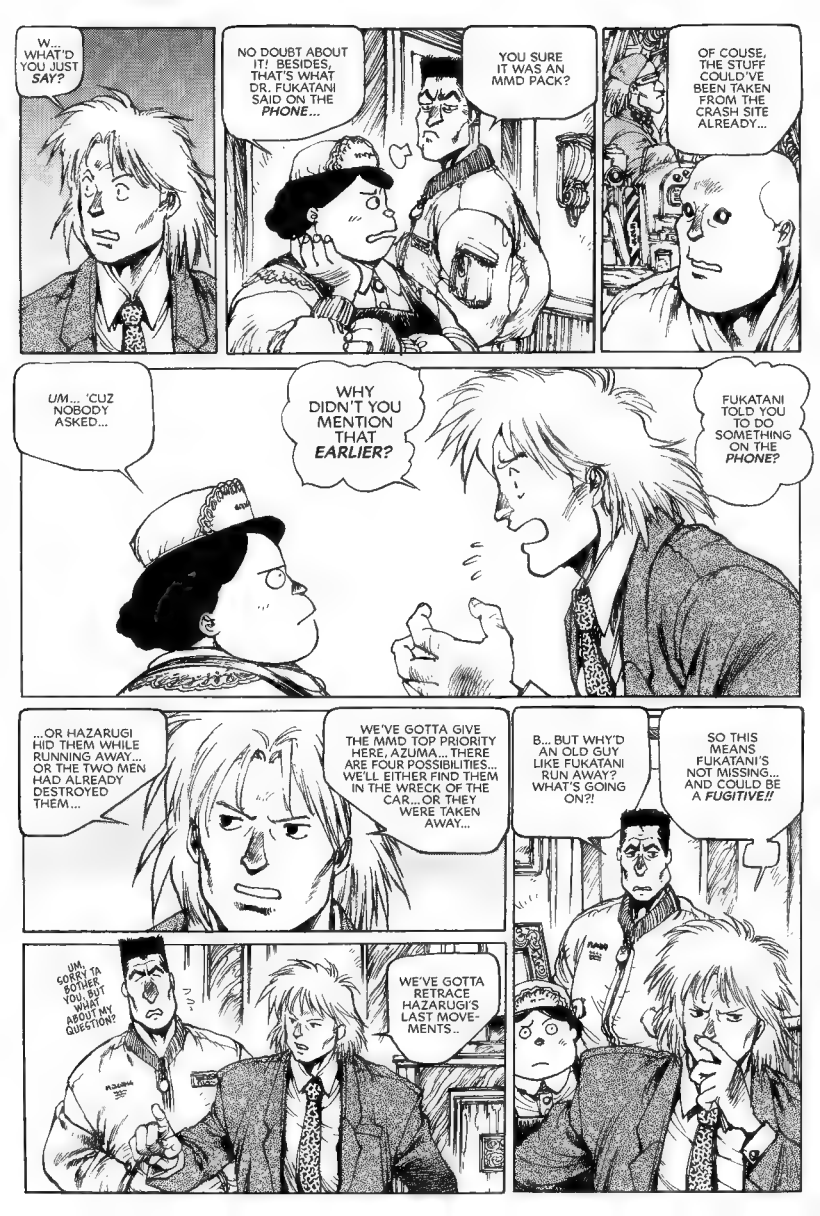
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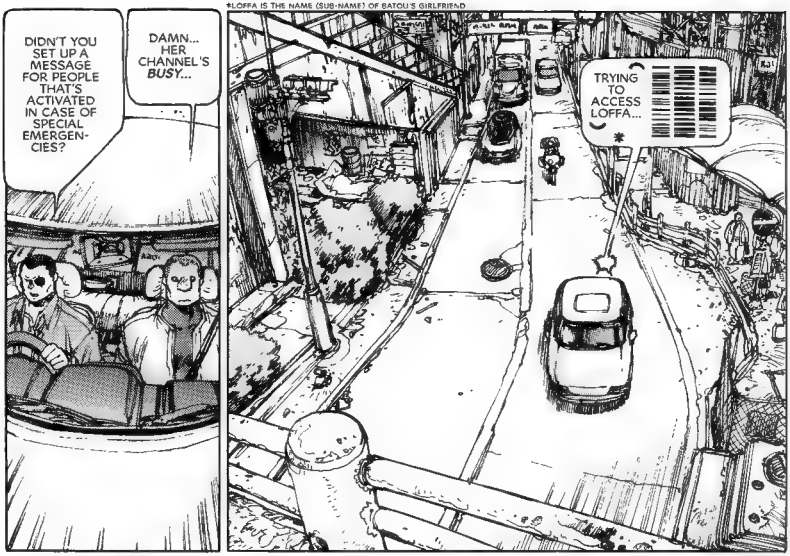
NOW LOADING . . .


HEAD-QUARTERS? GET ME THE EQUIPMENT DEPART-MENT...
YESSIR!
AH, GUESS I WAS GETTING A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY...
...A SET OF VIRUSES AND TWO OF EACH TYPE OF ANTI-VIRAL UNITS, AN' FIFTEEN MODEL A15 LANDMINES...
LESSEE... I NEED THE FOLLOWING... A CEBRO 30, LONG BARREL, AN' AN S-16 JAMMER AN' HAND-SATT, TWO EXTERNALLY ATTACHED MULTI-EYES, AN' TWO SHOULDER BIKES...
AH...HOW COME EVERYONE ASKS ME THAT?
SHOW US YOUR AUTHORI-ZATION FIRST...
TEE HEE
HEE
YEAH, AN' I NEED IT ALL DELIVERED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE... TOP PRIORITY, ON THE DOUBLE...
HMPH... I SEE... THAT'S IT?
THAT'S A PRECISION SNIPER RIFLE, NO?
CHK!
NOPE. MORE TO COME... BUT DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH THIS...
WOW... YOU DON'T WASTE ANY TIME, SAITO... THAT ALL YOU NEED?

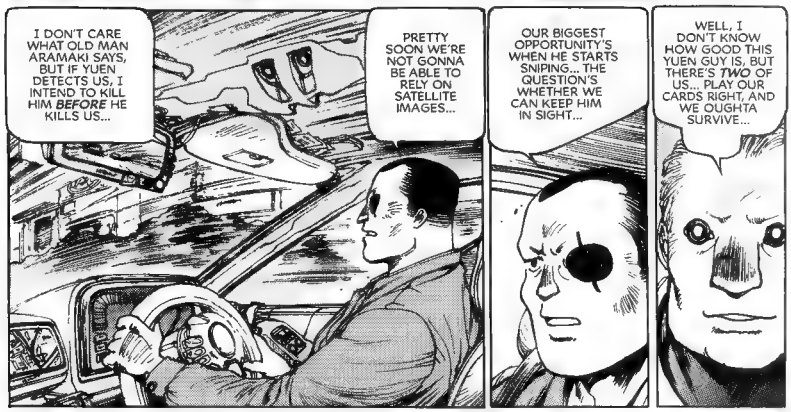

SNIFF SNIFF
HEY... THIS COAT SMELLS LIKE A DOCTOR'S!!
OF COURSE NOT... I'D NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE, AND USUALLY YOU FEEL *SUSPICIOUS* ABOUT STRANGERS, RIGHT? BUT STILL...
SO... YOU NEVER TOOK YOUR EYES OFF THE MEN, RIGHT?
YOU MEAN THEY KNEW WHERE THINGS WERE S'POSED TO BE?
TH...THAT'S THE WAY IT LOOKED TO ME...
SO THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D COME TO GET SOMETHING THEY WERE S'POSED TO GET, AT THE PLACE THEY WERE S'POSED TO GET IT?
...THERE WASN'T ANYTHING ESPECIALLY *ODD* ABOUT THE WAY THEY BEHAVED...
...THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY'D JUST COME BY TO PICK UP SOMETHING, SOMETHING THEY'D BEEN ASKED TO GET FROM THE STUDY...
BUT YER NOT VERY *BELIEVABLE*...
HMPH...
HEY, WHY'RE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT? I'M NOT *STUPID*, YOU KNOW!
THEY TOOK A PACK OF SIX NITTOK MMDs...
AND THEY HAD A KEY TO THE DRAWER? WHAT'D THEY TAKE? AN ENVELOPE? A BOX? ANY IDEA?
HMM?
*JUST STARTED WORK HERE, **TOGUSA**, SO I CAN'T REALLY SAY, BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT WOULD BE IN THE ORIGINAL FORM, ANYWAY...*
*YOU HEAR THAT, **BOMA**? FIND ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THE CAR WRECK?*


W... WHAT'D YOU JUST *SAY?*
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! BESIDES, THAT'S WHAT DR. FUKATANI SAID ON THE *PHONE...*
YOU SURE IT WAS AN MMD PACK?
OF COUSE, THE STUFF COULD'VE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE CRASH SITE ALREADY...
UM... 'CUZ NOBODY ASKED...
WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION THAT *EARLIER?*
FUKATANI TOLD YOU TO DO SOMETHING ON THE *PHONE?*
...OR HAZARUGI HID THEM WHILE RUNNING AWAY... OR THE TWO MEN HAD ALREADY DESTROYED THEM...
WE'VE GOTTA GIVE THE MMD TOP PRIORITY HERE, AZUMA... THERE ARE FOUR POSSIBILITIES... WE'LL EITHER FIND THEM IN THE WRECK OF THE CAR... OR THEY WERE TAKEN AWAY...
B... BUT WHY'D AN OLD GUY LIKE FUKATANI RUN AWAY? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SO THIS MEANS FUKATANI'S NOT MISSING... AND COULD BE A *FUGITIVE!!*
UM, SORRY TA BOTHER YOU, BUT WHAT ABOUT MY QUESTION?
WE'VE GOTTA RETRACE HAZARUGI'S LAST MOVE-MENTS..

*LOFFA IS THE NAME (SUB-NAME) OF BATOU'S GIRLFRIEND


DIDN'T YOU SET UP A MESSAGE FOR PEOPLE THAT'S ACTIVATED IN CASE OF SPECIAL EMERGENCIES?
DAMN... HER CHANNEL'S BUSY...
TRYING TO ACCESS LOFFA...


YOU OUGHTA SET THINGS UP SO SHE'LL AT LEAST THINK YOU DIED IN AN ACCIDENT OR SOMETHIN'...
BUT SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT KIND OF WORK YOU DO, RIGHT?
NOPE... WHEN I DIE, IT'S ALL OVER...
AN' I CAN DIE ANY-TIME...

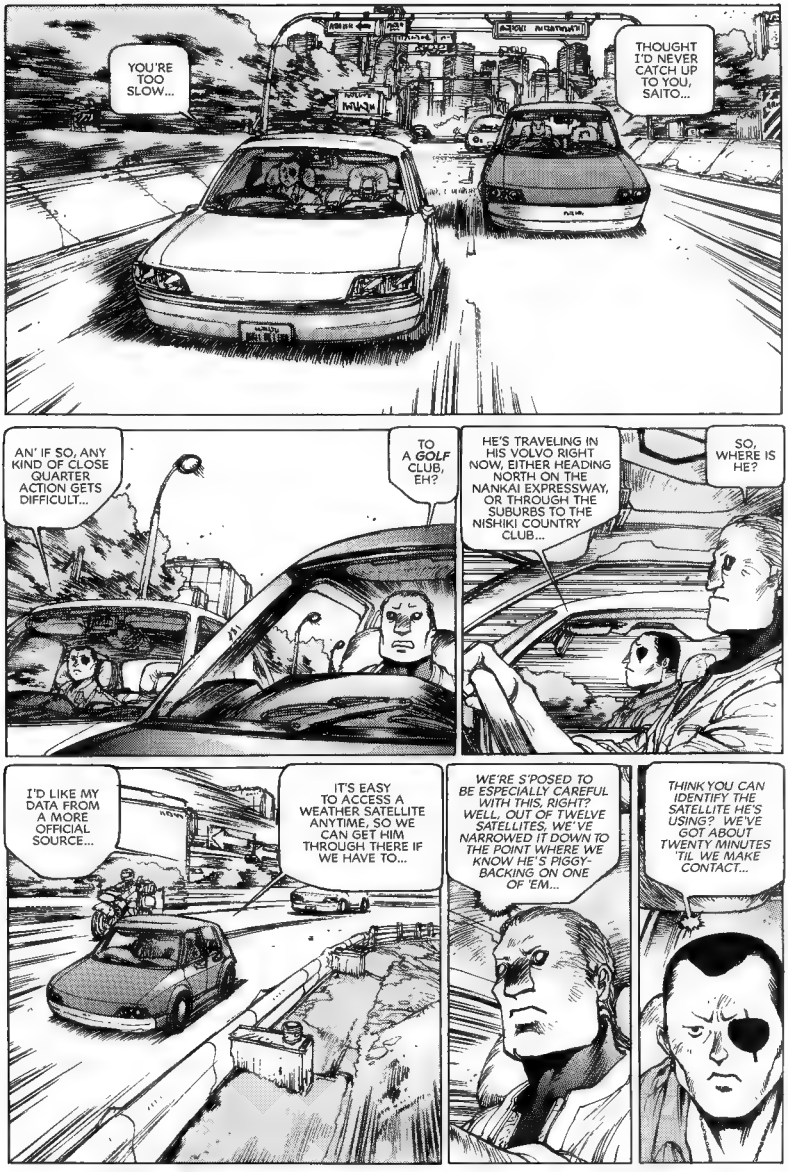

I DON'T CARE WHAT OLD MAN ARAMAKI SAYS, BUT IF YUEN DETECTS US, I INTEND TO KILL HIM BEFORE HE KILLS US...
PRETTY SOON WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO RELY ON SATELLITE IMAGES...
OUR BIGGEST OPPORTUNITY'S WHEN HE STARTS SNIPING... THE QUESTION'S WHETHER WE CAN KEEP HIM IN SIGHT...
WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THIS YUEN GUY IS, BUT THERE'S TWO OF US... PLAY OUR CARDS RIGHT, AND WE OUGHTA SURVIVE...


DON'T DRIVE TOO FAST... HE'LL SPOT YOU!!
I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU LATER...
VROOM
OF COURSE...
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'LL *DEFINITELY* NEED ME TO BACK YOU UP WHEN WE GO IN ON THIS...
HOW *CLEVER* OF YOU TO DEDUCE THAT, *BATOU*...
WHAT THE--? MY SUPERIOR'S DELIVERING THE HARDWARE ALL BY *HERSELF*?
WE'LL HAVE TO RETHINK THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FUKATANI AND CHINA...
WHO WILL?
WELL, IF SO, HE'LL SAVE US SOME TIME... WE WON'T HAVE TO CHASE AFTER FUKATANI...
YOU MEAN YUEN'S TARGET MIGHT BE FUKATANI?
FUKATANI APPARENTLY PHONED HOME... SO I'M ON THE WAY TO THE PLACE THE PHONE RECORDS SAY HE CALLED FROM...
SO I WAS AGREED TO BRING YOU THE STUFF.


CAN'T IMAGINE THAT HAZARUGI COULD'VE RUN VERY FAR...
GOD, I FEEL LIKE SOME KIND OF COP...
IT'S NO USE... NOTHING BUT WEIRD SCENTS HERE...
NAKASHIMA STREET 2
NAKASHIMA STREET 3
STATION
IT'S GOT TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHERE ALONG THE ROUTE THAT LED TO THE MAIN ROAD...
AH, NOW YOU'RE BEING VERY COOPERATIVE...
WE FOUND HAZARUGI'S SHOES... THEY WERE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, ABOUT 200 METERS BACK FROM THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT. I'LL SEND YOU A SCAN...
HEADQUARTERS TO B-29 ... MR. SHIKIBU OF THE YAKUSHI STATION IS TRYING TO CONTACT YOU...
SINCE THIS IS A FLASH REPORT, I CAN ONLY MAGNIFY THE IMAGE UP TO 200X...
AHA... THE HEEL'S BROKEN OFF, ISN'T IT... CAN YOU GIVE ME AN ENLARGED CROSS-SECTION VIEW?
INDIRECTLY, I ASSUME...

This is not data that has come out of the labs, but an image Shikibu has taken with his own portable scanner, so he can only magnify it two hundred times... By this time the actual item in question is probably in a vinyl bag of some sort, being transported to the labs. Investigators greatly appreciate such preliminary data, but its use is limited because it carries little legal weight. Investigators found the shoes as soon as police sniffer dogs appeared on the scene, and luckily for them there had been no street cleaning yet that day...


WE'RE NOT DONE YET!!
B-29 TO LAB...
HANG ON A SECOND... THIS RINGS A BELL IN MY BRAIN...
MAYBE SHE CLIMBED UP AN OLD METAL LADDER...
HMM... RUST MARKS ON THE FRONT PART OF THE HEEL...
LOOK, THIS ISN'T SOME KIND OF QUIZ SHOW, OKAY? YOU'VE GOTTA WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW MORNING, WHEN YOU'LL GET THE REPORT!!
B...BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN ASKED YOU ANYTHING YET...
IT'S A DRUG BANNED FOUR YEARS AGO. THEY MARKETED IT SPECIFICALLY FOR WOMEN, FOR SELF-PROTECTION...
WHA? THEY REALLY GOT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
DON'T S'POSE YOU'VE FOUND ANY TRACE OF DRUGS, LIKE "BLUE SKY PUNCH," HAVE YOU?
WE'RE ACTUALLY TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE PRODUCT NAME RIGHT NOW, BUT WE DO FIND TRACES OF A DRUG THAT TEMPORARILY MAXIMIZES PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE...
SHE MAY HAVE TEMPORARILY TURNED INTO SUPERWOMAN, AND JUMPED UP THERE... LET'S GO TAKE A LOOK...
IF SHE'S GOT TRACES OF RUST IN HER SHOE ARCHES, THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY WE'LL FIND SOMETHING ON THE ROOF OF A BUILDING AROUND HERE...


YOU'RE TOO SLOW...
THOUGHT I'D NEVER CATCH UP TO YOU, SAITO...
AN' IF SO, ANY KIND OF CLOSE QUARTER ACTION GETS DIFFICULT...
TO A *GOLF* CLUB, EH?
HE'S TRAVELING IN HIS VOLVO RIGHT NOW, EITHER HEADING NORTH ON THE NANKAI EXPRESSWAY, OR THROUGH THE SUBURBS TO THE NISHIKI COUNTRY CLUB...
SO, WHERE IS HE?
I'D LIKE MY DATA FROM A MORE OFFICIAL SOURCE...
IT'S EASY TO ACCESS A WEATHER SATELLITE ANYTIME, SO WE CAN GET HIM THROUGH THERE IF WE HAVE TO...
WE'RE S'POSED TO BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WITH THIS, RIGHT? WELL, OUT OF TWELVE SATELLITES, WE'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THE POINT WHERE WE KNOW HE'S PIGGY-BACKING ON ONE OF 'EM...
THINK YOU CAN IDENTIFY THE SATELLITE HE'S USING? WE'VE GOT ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES 'TIL WE MAKE CONTACT...


DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE PUT HER FOOT THROUGH ONE, THOUGH...
THE TWO ON THE RIGHT ARE DIFFERENT... THE OTHER'S PROBABLY ON THE ESCAPE ROUTE SHE TOOK...
HEY, THERE'S ANOTHER LADDER OVER THERE! WITH WHAT LOOKS LIKE SOME *NEW* DAMAGE...
YAY... THAT'S MY STRONG SUIT! BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, TOGUSA?
DO ME A FAVOR, AZUMA, AND DO A CAREFUL CHECK OF THE AREA WHERE THE PRINTS START GETTING MIXED UP, OKAY...?
Y'KNOW, IN LOOKING AT THE PRINTS HER PURSUERS LEFT, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY TURNED BACK TOWARDS THEIR CAR AFTER FIRST LOOKING *THATAWAY*...
ER... THANKS, BUT NO, THANKS... *HEH HEH*...
YOU WANNA GO AFTER THEM YOURSELF, THEN, AZUMA?
Y'KNOW WHAT? YOU'VE GOT THAT LOOK ON YOU... LIKE WHEN YOU'RE TAKING OVER THE *BEST PART* OF THE WHOLE *ASSIGNMENT*...
I'M GONNA TRY TO RETRACE HER PURSUERS' PATH...


YO, SAITO, IT'S ME!! WHAT'S UP, HEY?
WHO IS IT?
beep
A PHONE CALL?
BRRRT
BRRRT
REFILL OF TEA, SIR?
UM, NO THANKS...
WHO CARES WHAT THE BABES HERE THINK... JUST GET YOUR ASS OVER HERE!
I'M ALREADY HERE AT THE NISHIKI GOLF CLUB... YOU SCREW UP THE RENDEZVOUS TIME, OR WHAT?
I OUGHTA TURN AROUND AND KILL HIM RIGHT NOW, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'D ACCOMPLISH, OR WHAT THE RESPONSE'D BE...
GRRR...
WHAT A WEIRDO.
HMM... THREE PEOPLE HERE ALL LOOK OUT OF PLACE..
DAMN YUEN... HE'S GOT EYES LIKE A HAWK... I'D BETTER NOT GET TOO CLOSE TO HIM...
B-11 TO HEADQUARTERS... YUEN'S IN THE NISHIKI GOLF CLUB... I'M GOING TO BE CUTTING COMMUNICATIONS FOR A WHILE... DON'T TRY TO CONTACT ME...


BULLS-EYE... LADIES...
SLURP SIP
SEEMS LIKE HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOME-BODY...
IGNORE HIM..
PSST... YOU KNOW THAT ONE-EYED WEIRDO WHO KEPT GOING IN AND OUT OF HERE EARLIER? LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINALLY LEAVING...
SHIT... HURRY UP AND SET UP YOUR RIFLE, YUEN... I'M GETTING TIRED OF WAITING...*
YUEEE
JEEZ... HE'S GOT OPTICAL CAMOUFLAGE, TOO?!! UH, OH...
DAMN! HE'S CUTTING ACROSS THE FAIRWAY! THE BASTARD'S BEING AWFULLY CAREFUL...*
ZIP

*This has nothing to do with Saito specifically, but Batou's hoping that he'll be able to figure out Yuen's real target if he can watch him set up his sniper rifle....

*Yuen looked back, right after crossing the fairway, to make sure he wasn't being tailed. That means Batou will be forced to go around the long way if he wants to continue to tail Yuen on the other side. Or at least that's what we'll assume's going on here...


DAMN.. DON'T TELL ME I'VE LOST HIM!
BZZZZ
YER LATE... HE'S SOMEWHERE IN A 15-60 METER RADIUS OF COORDINATES
WELL, WHERE IS HE?
HMPH... EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...
OH, YEAH... AND AFTER ACTIVATING THE GOLF-COURSE SPRINKLERS, DON'T FORGET TO START JAMMING THE AIRWAVES...
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, CALL A PUBLIC PHONE. HIS EQUIPMENT'LL TRY TO SEARCH FOR THE SIGNAL, BUT HE'LL GIVE OFF A SIGNAL TO DO SO, AND I'LL TRY TO LOCK ONTO IT...
HMPH... THAT DOESN'T GIVE ME MUCH CHOICE... WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM HERE...
99

Batou's shoulder bike is electric, so it's a little heavy, but it's quiet and hard to detect. Of course, Batou's a cyborg, so he presumably could just run around the course, but the sound of all the weapons jostling around in his bag might give away his whereabouts to Yuen...



With all apologies to readers who are gear freaks, because of the special situation Yuen's not using a regular camoflage or Ghillie suit. Normally, the surface of his rifle would also have some sort of optical camoflage applied, that could be changed as needed, but I've left that out, too. In the fifth panel on the page, the movement of the air would normally be converted into a specific color range and displayed as a 3-D image, but this is a monochrome manga, so I beg your forgiveness... The mid-section of the image is distorted because Saito's "eagle eye" function has enlarged it


!
FSSSSSHHHHT
OKAY!
FSSTFSSTFSSST
FSSTFSSTFSSST
FSSTFSST
FSSST
ZIP ZIP ZIP ZIP
!


KRAK
THUNK
!
KATHUD
WHAT THE--? HE'S STILL *ALIVE!*
SSHH
SHIT!!
WOOSH


DAMN... WITH A LITTLE BREEZE LIKE THIS, I SHOULD'VE DRILLED HIM THROUGH THE FOREHEAD, WITH AN ERROR OF ONLY FIVE MILLIMETERS!
YOU MEAN I DIDN'T KILL YUEN?
UNGH...
SAITO! YOU ALIVE? I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND I HEARD...
I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG, BUT HE WAS MERGING HIS DATA INTO THE SATELLITE'S...
ZZ
AH, NOW I KNOW WHY WE COULDN'T IDENTIFY THE SATELLITE HE WAS USING!
THE CHIEF'S TALKING WITH THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RIGHT NOW... WE JUST HAD CONTACT FROM QWER... YOU WANT TO BE PATCHED IN TO HER?
YEAH, PLEASE...
BATOU TO HEAD-QUARTERS... WHERE'S THE OLD MAN?
AND NOW WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO YUEN WAS GUNNING FOR...
ZZ
YOU GUYS WERE BOTH SHOOTING WITH THE WRONG DATA...


NO... BUT WHAT OF IT?
I'M ON THE 6TH FLOOR OF A BROWN HOTEL 800 METERS EAST OF THE NISHIKI COUNTRY CLUB... CAN YOU SEE ME?
YOU COMPLETE THE JOB?
SORT OF...
THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER VIPs IN THE AREA, SO YUEN MUST'VE BEEN AFTER FUKATANI...
WE FOUND FUKATANI... I'M WAITING FOR THE LAB GUYS...
AH, EVEN THE BEST WARRIORS SOMETIMES HAVE TO TAKE ORDERS FROM IDIOTS...
SO YUEN'S EFFORTS WERE ALL IN VAIN, EH? BOY, HE **REALLY** DREW AN UNLUCKY NUMBER, DIDN'T HE...?
WE'VE GOT A WILL, AND THE MMD THAT AZUMA FOUND, SO MAYBE WE'LL BE ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER WHAT HAPPENED FROM THAT...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE COMMITTED E-BRAIN SUICIDE BEFORE YUEN COULD GET HIM...

↑ Batou doesn't want to move Yuen and cause him to bleed to death, so he's stanched the wound and is waiting for help to arrive...


YES... AND I READ YOUR REPORT, TOO.
SO, DID YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE DISK FUKATANI LEFT BEHIND?
I FEEL SOME PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL THIS, BUT IT CAN'T GO PUBLIC, BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T BE IN THE *NATIONAL INTEREST*...
LISTEN, IF THIS GOES PUBLIC, WE'LL HAVE TO WITHDRAW OUR AGENTS WHO'VE INFILTRATED DEEP INTO THE CHINESE SYSTEM...
ACCORDING TO FUKATANI, YOU AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ATTACK ON *OKINAWA*...
AND BESIDES, AS CHINA PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, THERE'S A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT LOCAL COMMANDERS ALSO GOT AHEAD OF THEMSELVES... AFTER ALL, ENTIRE UNITS WERE LATER EXECUTED...
AT THE TIME, WE DIDN'T HAVE VERY CREDIBLE INFORMATION ON A NUCLEAR ATTACK, AND PARLIAMENT RESPONDED TOO SLOWLY...
IF IT WOULD HELP MINIMIZE THE *TOTAL* DAMAGE, THE ANSWER'S NO...
YOU MEAN YOU DON'T CARE IF INNOCENT CITIZENS *DIE*, RIGHT...?


AND HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO *COOPERATE FULLY* WITH US...
WELL, YOU WERE SO AFRAID OF HAVING EVERYTHING UNCOVERED THAT YOU SENT IN YUEN AS AN ASSASSIN... BUT GUESS WHAT...? ONE AGENT RECORDED ALL YOUR CONVERSATIONS...
YOU REALLY THINK I'D GIVE AKANABE TOP PRIORITY AND ISSUE AN ORDER TO ASSASSINATE SOMEONE?
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT THE HAZARUGI INCIDENT'S ALSO A CASE OF YOUR PEOPLE RUNNING AMOK?
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND KILL INNOCENT PEOPLE... YOU'RE GOING TO BE TRIED BEFORE A SECRET TRIBUNAL, MR. MAKI...
YOU MAY BE RIGHT... MAYBE WE *SHOULDN'T* MAKE FUKATANI'S DISK PUBLIC...
TAKE HIM AWAY...
I KNOW. AND I'M PREPARED FOR IT.
NO NEED FOR IT. THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALREADY KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON. HE'S ALREADY ACCEPTED YOUR REQUEST TO BE ALLOWED TO RESIGN BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH...
BEFORE YOU DO, COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME FINISH MY CURRENT WORK?


AND IF YOU CAN'T RELEASE IT, MAKE SURE IT GETS PASSED ON TO THE NEXT GENERA-TION...
IF FOR SOME REASON I DIE BEFORE THIS INFORMATION GOES PUBLIC, YOU MAKE SURE IT GETS RELEASED, OKAY?
YEAH?
BATOU...
B...BUT WAIT... YOU MEAN YOU ALREADY COPIED IT? WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
NO... I'LL PAY...
Y'MEAN I CAN DEDUCT THE MONEY I SPENT COPYING THIS THING?
RIGHT NOW, AT LEAST...
WELL, IN ONE OF THOSE CASES THE GUILTY PARTY'LL BE TRIED, BUT OF COURSE HE DOESN'T REALLY EXIST. OFFICIALLY, THAT IS...
WELL, I STARTED THINKING ABOUT BEING HIT TWICE BY TRUCK DRIVERS ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL AND TWICE BY CAR DRIVERS WHO WERE DISTRACTED... AND THEN I THOUGHT ABOUT THE POOR GIRL WHO WAS KILLED...
AM I START REMEMBERING WHAT HAPPENED IN THE JUNGLE...

LOST PAST: END

